

To cut or not to cut?
New study renews debate on
circumcision as HIV prevention tool.
page 15

Gays, Baptists clash
50 Soulforce members arrested
at Southern Baptist Convention.
page 12



Feature this!
Week two of the 26th SF
Internat'l L&G Film Fest.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

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City mourns death of gay cop

by Matthew S. Bajko

A week after a fatal crash between two police cars, the city is still mourning the death of the first openly gay cop killed in the line of duty.

Only blocks from his home, Officer Jon C. Cook, 38, died from injuries sustained in a collision involving two marked police cars at the intersection of 17th and Dolores streets on the night of Wednesday, June 12.

At approximately 10:30 p.m. the two vehicles collided while answering a call to assist in the arrest of a stabbing suspect near Dolores Park. Police investigators believe the cars crashed due to a "washout" effect where the vehicles canceled out each other's sirens and lights.

Cook and his partner, Officer Michael Celis, 34, were responding to assist in the arrest of Monte Haney, 29, who was wanted for a brutal domestic violence attack where police say he gouged out his girlfriend's eye and beat her with a meat cleaver. (Haney was eventually captured by other officers.) Driving south on Dolores Street, Cook and Celis collided with another patrol car driven by Officer David Lee, 22 and his passenger Officer Nicholas Ferrando, 25, who remains in critical condition at San Francisco General Hospital. All four officers were based at Mission Station.

Ferrando was ejected from the vehicle and sustained head injuries. Cook suffered severe head trauma and died later that evening at SFGH. Cook was the 95th San Francisco officer in the department's history to die in the line of duty.

"Cook was an exemplary person as well as police officer," said Police Chief Fred Lau. "He was doing what he was trained to do. I am very proud he was a member of this department."

Since the accident, flags have flown at half mast throughout Northern California and officers in both the San Francisco Police Department and San Francisco Sheriff's De-

page 11 ▶



Officer Jon C. Cook



San Francisco Assistant Police Chief Earl Sanders, right, salutes after handing the flag that had flown over Mission Station to Jared Strawderman, the partner of Officer Jon C. Cook, at a memorial service Saturday, June 15 at Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco.



Judge James Warren

Judge throws out Knoller murder conviction

by Ed Walsh

The decision this week to throw out Marjorie Knoller's second-degree murder conviction is being met by one unanimous reaction: shock.

Friends and family of Diane Whipple are joining prosecutors in expressing outrage while the defense is praising the ruling handed down on Monday, June 17, as "courageous."

San Francisco Superior Court Judge James Warren stunned his courtroom by partially granting a defense motion seeking a new trial. Knoller and her husband, Robert Noel, were convicted in March of involuntary manslaughter and keeping a mischievous animal that killed a human being. Knoller, who was with her two Presa Canario dogs during their January 26, 2001 hallway attack on Whipple, her neighbor, was also convicted of second-degree murder. Warren granted Knoller a new trial on the second-degree murder charge. Many legal experts and the prosecution itself questioned whether a second trial for second-degree murder would constitute double jeopardy.

Prosecutors, Whipple's partner, Sharon Smith, and Whipple's friends and family are questioning why Warren waited until now to throw out the second-degree charge when he had ample opportunity to do it before, during, and after the trial.

Whipple's mother, Pamela Whipple-Kelly told the *Bay Area Reporter* that the decision left her "outraged."

"I think it's terrible," she said. "After the grand jury thought there was enough evidence to hand down the indictment initially and they felt them guilty and then all of a sudden

page 16 ▶

Pat takes a pay cut

by Zak Szymanski

Some said it was bound to happen, particularly in a poor economy and the post-September 11 donor fatigue that left many nonprofits struggling for funds.

The San Francisco AIDS Foundation announced on Tuesday, June 18 that it is facing a \$2.5 million budget gap, and must lay off 28 of its 117 employees, including nine managers, three of which are at the senior level. Additionally, the agency's remaining senior management will take a 10 percent pay cut, and SFAF Executive Director Pat Christen will take a 12 percent pay cut, bringing her annual salary down from \$207,032 to \$182,188, not including benefits. There will also be no raises in salaries for the duration of the coming fiscal year, which begins July 1.

"It's a very sad day here," said Gustavo Suárez, SFAF's director of communications, about the agency's layoffs. "There are some stellar people here who do direct client services and struggle every day to assist people and affect people impacted by HIV/AIDS, and they do it with great commitment and passion. It's tremendously difficult to have to inform a staff of this caliber that we need to eliminate their positions."

Christen, often the target of criticism for what has been called an exorbitantly high salary, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that she gladly accepted the pay cut to help ensure the agency's survival.

"A 12 percent cut is a very appropriate thing to do in light of the circumstances," said Christen. "The board has made the right decision regarding that and I fully support it."

Christen also addressed criticism of her salary - which is set by the board of directors - by stating, "Our commitment to compensating people competitively so that we can seek and maintain the best possible folks is something I don't make any excuses for. Our compensation philosophy has served our or-



SFAF Executive Director Pat Christen

ganization very well through the years."

SFAF's layoffs are expected to be completed by June 30, although some staff members will stay on a few months into the next fiscal year for transition purposes.

"The layoffs are absolutely necessary if the foundation is going to continue, and that is our focus here, to continue serving communities that rely on us," said Suárez, who emphasized that in light of the economy and the way other nonprofits have struggled, "we've been fortunate we've been able to hold off this long."

Suárez, incidentally, is one of the senior managers who will leave the agency, along with the director of human resources and the director of HIV services and treatment support.

SFAF has been able, he said, to make cut-backs carefully so as to prioritize client services. Current services - including client ad-

page 11 ▶

INSIDE

BAR Talk	40
Classifieds	19
Lavender Tube	31
Lesbian Notions	8
Mailstrom	7
Mister Marcus	38
Obituaries	17
Open Forum	6
Our Man Friday	9
Out There	26
Out & About	34
Past Out	10
Personals	41
Sports Complex	18

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The I-Beam comes down



The former I-Beam disco, at 1748 Haight Street, was demolished Tuesday, June 18, apparently to make way for housing. In its heyday in the 1980s, the I-Beam played host to concerts by Sylvester and many New Wave bands, including Duran Duran and Red Hot Chili Peppers, and was well-known in the gay community for its popular Sunday Tea Dances. The I-Beam closed without much fanfare in the early 1990s.

As state debates equal benefits bill, CAPE honors backers of SF law

by Matthew S. Bajko

As San Francisco celebrates the five-year anniversary of its landmark equal benefits ordinance, the California Alliance for Pride and Equality wants California to be the first state to adopt such legislation.

CAPE convinced Assembly Assistant Speaker Pro Tempore and out lesbian Christine Kehoe to lead the fight to have the state adopt legislation similar to San Francisco's ordinance. Kehoe, a Democratic assemblywoman from San Diego, introduced AB1080 into the Legislature this month.

The bill would prohibit agencies of the state of California from contracting with businesses that discriminate in the benefits they offer the spouses of their employees as compared to the benefits they offer the domestic partners of their employees. It is modeled after San Francisco's legislation.

It is scheduled for a hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee on June 25. Based on its reception at the committee, Kehoe said she will have a better sense if legislators are leaning toward support or defeat of the bill.

"I suspect the Senate will be a little more engaging than some of the more conservative Assembly members," said Kehoe. "I think we have got a good chance of get-



Assemblywoman Christine Kehoe

ting it passed in both houses and sending it to the governor."

When the equal benefits ordinance was first passed in San Francisco in 1997, only a handful of companies gave equal domestic partner benefits. San Francisco's law stipulated that all companies granted city contracts must offer their LGBT employees in domestic partnerships the same benefits as workers who are married.

According to CAPE, the city's ordinance has resulted in a major change in the way businesses treat their LGBT employees. Now, included among the 4,000-plus companies extending domestic partner benefits in the United States are over 150 Fortune 500 companies.

Nearly 30 percent of the largest companies in the United States now offer the benefits. In San Francisco, the contractors offering domestic partner benefits employ a nationwide pool of approximately 1.5 million people.

The city has successfully defended the ordinance in court against a lawsuit filed by several airlines that contended they should not be required to adhere to the law. And Berkeley, Los Angeles, Oakland, Seattle, and San Mateo County have all adopted similar legislation.

"This bill is about equity in the workplace. Two employees doing the exact same job with the exact same qualifications should not be compensated differently simply because one is married while the other is in a domestic partnership," said CAPE interim executive director Geoffrey Kors. "It is now time to extend this equality to the employees of entities that contract with the state. It is simply unacceptable for tax dollars to be spent buying goods and services from companies that discriminate."

For groups like Out and Equal, which advocates for equal treatment of LGBT employees within the workplace, passage of the bill would significantly advance its goals.

"Our goal is to support and advocate for LGBT employees in any kind of workplace so having

page 8 ►

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Volunteers needed to install pink triangle

by Matthew S. Bajko

Every year it heralds the start of the city's Pride celebration. Seen from as far as 20 miles away, the pink triangle atop Twin Peaks is a visual reminder of both the intolerance gays face and the pride the community is no longer afraid to present.

This year will be no different. The Friends of the Pink Triangle is once again calling for community members to help install the symbol on the hillside and come out for the pink champagne christening of the display.

"To many, the pink triangle is just a brightly colored graphic image which has come to represent the gay movement and there is not a connection to how the symbol came about," said Patrick Carney, a member of Friends of the Pink Triangle. "We realized its history of hate was being forgotten and wanted to inform as many people as we could of its significance."

It has been six years since the first pink triangle adorned the hillside. Organizers of the project say it not only serves as a reminder of how the Nazis used the pink triangle in concentration camps to identify and shame gays, but also serves as a remembrance of contemporary hate crimes.

"Its display is also intended as an instrument to initiate discourse



Volunteers at last year's pink triangle installation.

concerning hate crimes. We want to help prevent others from experiencing the results of hatred that Matthew Shepard, Allen Schindler, Brandon Teena, and countless others have been subjected to," said Carney, who along with Thomas Tremblay and Michael Brown, founded the project. "If we can help prevent additional crimes like the ones committed against them, we will have been successful in our attempt to inform the public."

Workers are needed to assemble the hundreds of pink tarps and the thousands of 12-inch tent stakes used to hold the canvasses to the hillside. The installation will begin Saturday, June 29 at 7 a.m. and is expected to take place until 10 a.m.

Volunteers, with hammers in

hand, are welcome to stop by the Twin Peaks vista point overlook parking lot anytime during the morning. The Friends of the Pink Triangle need about 45 people to help them install the triangle which is nearly 200 feet across.

For the second year in a row, the pink triangle will be illuminated, and this year, search lights will pan the sky above the site during Saturday evening.

The triangle will remain throughout Sunday, June 30 and will come down at 6 p.m. that evening. Volunteers are also encouraged to come help take down the tarps.

The Twin Peaks overlook is located on Christmas Tree Lane off of Twin Peaks Boulevard. For more information, call Carney at (415) 247-1142. ▼



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Volunteers needed for San Francisco Pride

by Zak Szymanski

If wandering aimlessly or fighting for viewing space has thus far defined the Pride Parades of your past, there's a better way to be a part of the most famous queer celebration in the world.

San Francisco LGBT Pride needs volunteers for the festival and parade from June 29-30, an event that in its 32nd year is anticipating the largest turnout in history.

More than 1,500 volunteers are expected, and the opportunities are almost endless. There is a special need for safety volunteers, who in addition to making sure the event runs smoothly get the best view of the parade, according to Pride's Regina Bauer.

"Safety monitors get placed along the parade route, so they get to see it all," said Bauer, who described the position as being "an extra set of eyes and ears, helping to move large objects and vehicles through crowds, and being proactive not reactive."

Other coveted positions are working as assembly coordinators or captains, who are the first to see every parade contingent; putting special skills to use on the medical committee or as an interpreter; building floats; assisting with vendor booths; acting as a liaison between police and parade crews; and working backstage at the main stage, helping artists such as



Christopher Gomora, left, and Richard Sanchez assemble a teepee for the Bay Area American Indian Two Spirits' first float in the Pride Parade.

Dead or Alive, Marcella Detroit, Janis Ian, and Pansy Division.

"I'll recruit anybody who wants to be recruited," said Bauer. "Volunteers should call me with their interests and I'll point them in the right direction."

It is up to individual committee heads whether and when to schedule trainings, but Pride's safety committee will soon be hosting special sessions for safety monitors; for details e-mail volunteers@sfpride.org.

Additionally, contingent monitors are necessary to monitor every float, and these volunteers are usually designated by the organiza-

tions marching. Contingent monitors should attend one of several upcoming hour-long trainings: tonight (Thursday, June 20), at 7 p.m. at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 290 Dolores Street and 16th; Friday, June 21 at 7 p.m. at Bethany United Methodist Church, 1268 Sanchez Street; Saturday, June 22 at 1 p.m. at Metropolitan Community Church 150 Eureka; or Sunday, June 23 at 1 p.m. at the Women's Building, 3542 18th Street.

A complete list of volunteer needs and descriptions is available at www.sfpride.org/volunteer/index.htm. For more information, call (415) 864-0831. ▼

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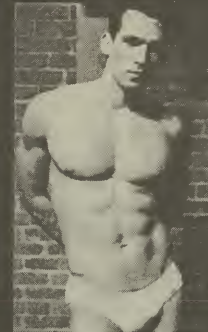
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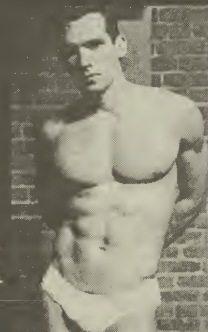
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COMMUNITY NEWS

Women's Building hosts mural fundraiser

by Zak Szymanski

In March, several progressively-minded institutions in the Mission District of San Francisco were hit with racist, anti-Arab, and misogynist graffiti.

The black spray paint declared, "Kill Arabs" and "Cunts" on the Women's Building; "Die sand niggers" and "Dead Arabs=Peace" outside Community United Against Violence; and "Bomb Arabs" on the side of Community Thrift.

But it was the Women's Building that incurred the most damage, with an entire wall of its well-

known mural affected by the painted statements that were accompanied by strategic cross-outs of images of AIDS activists and people of color.

This Saturday, June 22, the Women's Building will host "Rising Above Hate," an event to celebrate the spirit of the mural, entitled "Maestrapeace," which means "Woman: Teacher of Peace." The event will aim to raise essential funds to restore the vandalized mural and to "stand in unity with our community against hate and violence," according to a statement.

Rising Above Hate begins at 8 p.m. at the Women's Building, 3543

18th Street, at Valencia, and includes spoken word, music, and dance. Featured artists are Cuban Band Batey, Loco Bloco's women Bateria drummers, Avotcja, Khushbu Srivastava, and DJ's Chata Gutierrez and Jose Ruiz. Food has been donated by chef Andrea Pinto.

Founded in 1979, the Women's Building was the first women's community center in the country and is home to several LGBT organizations.

Saturday's event is \$10-\$20 sliding scale. Limited child care is available. For more information, call (415) 431-1180, ext. 17, or visit www.womensbuilding.org. ▼

'Fresh Meat' performance fest debuts Tues.

by Zak Szymanski

It hasn't yet opened, but already the new tranny and queer performance festival, "Fresh Meat," is being talked about as history in the making.

On Tuesday, June 25, and Wednesday, June 26, Fresh Meat debuts at the ODC Theater at 17th and Shotwell at 8 p.m. as part of the National Queer Arts Festival and is co-sponsored by Trannyfest and Trans-Art.

"It's a fresh, fierce, and tasty queer and trans cabaret," said Sean Dorsey, the event's producer. More than 15 artists will be featured, in-

cluding Tina D'Elia, Deep Dickollective, Shawna Virago and the Deadly Nightshade Family, Gigi Otálvaro-Hormillosa, the guys from Luna Sea's "Trans Men Tell Their Tales," dancer/choreographer Dorsey, and House of Vogue.

"We're the all-you-can eat smorgasbord of the National Queer Arts Festival," said Dorsey. "Homo hip-hop, genderqueer modern dance, unapologetic performance art, all-female breakdancing, and dance theater that responds to the collision of race, gender, and sexuality."

Dorsey said he founded Fresh Meat when he realized that both Tranny Fest — the transgender film

and art festival — and the Lesbian and Gay Dance Festival were absent from this year's LGBT offerings (Tranny Fest returns in the fall of 2003). Although created in response to having fewer showcases for queer artists, Fresh Meat has "grown into a larger project with a long-term vision and mandate," said Dorsey.

"Fresh Meat also responds to the lack of true representation many of us have experienced in traditional queer productions that claim to be inclusive. We're proud to prioritize presenting the work of artists of color and including transgendered artists," he added.

Tickets to Fresh Meat are \$12-\$15 sliding scale and are available by calling the ODC box office at (415) 863-9834 or at www.odc-theater.com. More information is available by e-mailing freshmeat-performance@hotmail.com. ▼

Restaurants take part in AIDS fundraiser

by Matthew S. Bajko

As part of the 20th anniversary of the AIDS Emergency Fund, 20 of the city's best restaurants are hosting parties to raise money for low-income people with AIDS.

Each restaurant will serve dinner to eight to 10 diners at the same time throughout the city on Tuesday, June 25. Afterward, diners are invited to the W Hotel for a dessert reception.

The dinner party event is the second of several fundraising activities as part of the 20-year anniversary for AEF. The agency has provided grants for non-medical expenses such as rent and utilities for low-income people with AIDS since the beginning of the epidemic.

Since 1982, the fund has raised nearly \$20 million to assist with housing, transportation, non-insured medical expenses and child-care to thousands of clients. Beginning last year, AEF began to offer grants to people with breast cancer through the separate Breast Cancer Emergency Fund.

Tickets for the Dine Around event are \$125 per person, and include a gourmet meal and the dessert reception. Participating restaurants include Farallon, Ponzu, Firefly, Delfina, Zao Noodle Bar, and Max's Diamond Grill. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m. and the dessert reception will begin at 8:30 p.m.

For more information and a full list of participating restaurants, visit www.aidsemrgencyfund.org. To purchase tickets, call (415) 551-5190. ▼

'Inside Out' event to benefit North Bay agency

by Cynthia Laird

Billed as an "extraordinary collection of one-of-a-kind treasures and services for your home and garden," a fundraiser called "Inside Out" will take place this Sunday, June 23 in downtown Windsor. The event benefits Face to Face/Sonoma County AIDS Network.

A special preview will take place Saturday, June 22 from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Sunday's event runs from 2-6 p.m. at the old Windsor Feed and Hay store, 300 Bell Street, off Windsor River Road (central Windsor exit).

Inside Out will feature a silent auction, live auction, marketplace, and cafe. Items from many local

merchants will be available, including furniture, topiary, antiques, accessories, interior design products, lighting, tabletop and statuary merchandise, window treatments, art, plants and landscape design, and rugs.

Face to Face provides compassionate care to people with HIV and their loved ones while promoting preventive education and responsive leadership to residents of Sonoma County. The organization offers a comprehensive system of support to people with HIV/AIDS, their families, and loved ones. Services include access to HIV health care and planning, and emotional support.

For more information about this weekend's event, call (707) 544-1581 or visit www.f2f.org/events. ▼

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Justice

We are conflicted over the ruling on Monday by San Francisco Superior Court Judge James Warren that threw out the second-degree murder conviction of Marjorie Knoller in the infamous dog-mauling trial. After all, a grand jury in San Francisco handed up the charge of second-degree murder and a jury of 12 people in Los Angeles found her guilty of that charge following a lengthy trial. And the case was brutal: a young, athletic lesbian was mauled to death in the hallway of her own apartment building; her partner had to fight for the right to sue for wrongful death, won that battle and helped to change state law. We, along with the gay and lesbian community, wanted justice for Whipple.

However, Judge Warren's decision in the criminal case was based on his review of the law, which found the evidence lacking on the murder conviction. For a second-degree murder conviction, implied malice must be proven; Warren found that implied malice was not demonstrated. Attorneys who are not involved in the case but who have observed it noted that it's not enough for Knoller to have known that the dogs were dangerous to meet this implied malice standard. Warren said that the only part of Knoller's trial testimony that he believed was when she said she did not know her two 120-pound Preso Canario dogs were capable of killing someone. Warren said that to be guilty of second-degree murder, Knoller had to know that taking one of the dogs out of the apartment could have deadly consequences.

Knoller and her husband, Robert Noel, are "the most despised couple in the city," as Warren famously declared Monday. Both of them behaved despicably in the aftermath of the brutal mauling of Diane Whipple, even going so far as to blame Whipple for her own death. But justice isn't based on a popularity contest or whether defendants are "likable." Judge Warren, acting in his capacity as a "13th juror," reversed himself when he threw out the murder conviction this week.

We are at a loss as to why Judge Warren waited this long to make his decision, which shocked everyone. Whipple's partner Sharon Smith and her supporters, Whipple's friends and family, the prosecution team, and defense lawyers were all stunned when the judge handed down his decision. Warren had earlier denied defense motions before the trial to throw out the murder

OPEN FORUM

charge, saying at the time that there was ample evidence to support the case.

It is unlikely that Knoller will be retried on the murder charge. Warren let stand her conviction on a count of involuntary manslaughter. Retrying Knoller on the murder charge would raise constitutional questions involving double jeopardy because, in effect, Knoller has already been tried for Whipple's death.

While we empathize greatly with Sharon Smith's frustration and anger over Judge Warren's decision, we knew that obtaining a conviction on second-degree murder would be extremely difficult. It hasn't happened yet in the state, and after Monday's surprise decision tossing out the conviction, it looks like this case won't be the one to set precedent in that area.

In another matter, justice – in a moral sense – was served this week at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. After years of calling for Executive Director Pat Christen to take a pay cut, she has surprised us by doing just that, as we report this week. It

seems SFAF faced a \$2.5 million budget deficit and as a result, some 28 jobs were eliminated and some salaries were reduced, including Christen's whopping annual salary of \$207,032. We applaud SFAF for this belt-tightening. For too long, SFAF's board of directors kept giving Christen raise

after raise, apparently never considering that capping or reducing her salary would mean that more money could be spent on client services. Now, of course, there's less money and layoffs, but SFAF says that core client services should not be deeply affected, though people may encounter less one-on-one time with staff and increased waiting time.

Thanks to the downturn in the economy, the board and management of SFAF have had to reconsider the automatic raises. We understand that those who lost their jobs now join the ranks of the unemployed, and we sincerely hope they are successful in finding other work. (The same, by the way, goes to those workers who were laid off last month at Project Open Hand.) But SFAF has done the right thing in reducing top salaries. ▼



Editorial



We need to help LGBT youth

by Glenn LeCarl

Our display of rainbow flags and yellow equal signs appears disingenuous these days. Symbolizing inclusiveness and equality, they seem increasingly out of place representing a community which renders many unequal and that excludes whole segments of its population from the benefits of its growing wealth and influence.

Maybe we should adopt the GOP's elephant instead – it would be a more fitting emblem of our community and leading community organizations as they stand today. At least in so far as our treatment of homeless LGBT youth, we have perfected the very arrogance and indifference of the wealthy and powerful toward those who are poor and disenfranchised that many in our community attribute to the Republican Party. We have abandoned our own most vulnerable youth – not the hallmark of a community with its priorities in order.

The result is readily apparent: greatly disproportionate numbers of LGBT youth living and dying on America's streets. Those who have not succumbed due to violence, disease, or suicide face terrible choices, such as whether: to spend a night in a shelter, in which they risk being sexually assaulted or beaten; to sell their bodies for shelter or food; to forego the use of a condom for a few extra bucks; or to "escape" their harsh reality with drugs and alcohol. Instead of getting a helping hand up, they are more likely to be pushed to their knees.

Incredibly, this enormous suffering and loss of life has failed to move the heart – or

purse strings – of our community. Though unable to control the hate, ignorance, and intolerance that forces thousands of these kids from their homes and communities each year, we could make a huge difference in what happens to them from that point forward. We could offer many safety, provide many with life-affirming choices and opportunities, and we could save many lives; though significantly, we do not. Our efforts on their behalf are minor at best, our investment of resources meager. Not surprisingly, services geared specifically toward helping them remain scarce.

Yet, our community's dearth of compassion and generosity toward homeless LGBT youth doesn't end there. We have also largely failed to work with – or agitate against, when necessary – traditional service providers, funders, and government agencies to ensure these kids safe access within our nation's existent shelter and youth services systems. As a result, they lack even the most rudimentary safety net.

Our stubborn adherence to an education-only model for HIV/AIDS prevention further evidences our callous disregard for the crisis they face. To kids in dire need of a hot meal or a safe place to sleep, we hand out condoms and pamphlets. Alone, these efforts and the funky ad campaigns that accompany them remain so much latex and hot air.

If truly serious about reducing the incidence of HIV and AIDS among these kids, we certainly must do more. We must, in fact,

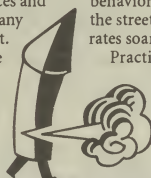
broaden the whole paradigm for HIV/AIDS prevention. Surviving on the street from day to day places LGBT youth in an extraordinarily vulnerable position with regard to HIV/AIDS, as well as other sexually transmitted diseases. Unless we aggressively target homelessness, and the self-destructive behaviors so often associated with life on the street, we will continue to see infection rates soar.

Practicing safer sex, and taking care of oneself generally speaking, presupposes some degree of safety, stability, and hope for the future – all of which we have yet to offer our homeless youth.

What is required of us may be daunting, the work arduous. But should we finally include their well-being high among our priorities, and make equal their consideration in allocating our vast resources, we may yet give them a fighting chance. Perhaps too, our leading advocacy organizations, like the Human Rights Campaign and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, will find the heart to stop playing just ever-so-slightly naughty cops to the Log Cabin Republicans' good cop and begin fighting for the lives of our homeless youth.

Only then will the rainbow flag and yellow equal sign – not the elephant – reflect our reality and our aspirations. ▼

Glenn LeCarl resides in Tallahassee, Florida with his life partner and can be reached at glennalecarl@aol.com.



Guest Opinion

LETTERS

Likes him already

I don't know much about Shawn O'Hearn, but I like him already – and not just because he has a killer smile. He's given us a great crude self-identification litmus test [*"Supe hopeful blurs the line between sex and politics," June 13*]. Of course the prudes won't see it that way. We'll be hearing the word "appropriate" a few thousand times before anyone admits that personal sexual shame is the real drive behind the hysteria. And it's going to be great when the local happy talk TV news gets hold of this, "Political Shocker! Gay man acts ... GAY! Civilization in ruins! Details at 11." Why is it that the tightest asses are always in the wrong places?

Donald Leighton
San Francisco

An opening for Hansen?

Sometimes an image in the newspaper can trigger a whole line of thought. That's what happened when I saw that locker-room photo of supe candidate Shawn O'Hearn splashed on the front page of the *B.A.R.*

My first reaction was one of dismay. "Great," I thought to myself sarcastically, "just what the world needs – more testosterone in power."

But then I realized something else. Although I'm not a big fan of Eileen Hansen (so far), the photo suggested a strategy of how she can win the supe race in District Eight.

Hansen can run on a "beyond testosterone" platform.

She needn't even mention words like "testosterone," "male self-centeredness," "male sexual compulsiveness," or "patriarchy." In fact, she needn't mention men at all.

Instead, she can do the following:

Focus on the needs of children. No supe candidate has made a priority of the needs of children in the city. It's one of the great neglected areas of public policy. Hansen can come up with new proposals for helping children, especially children of working-class families or one-parent families.

Focus on the needs of women. Much attention in District Eight has been given to the Castro, with its testosterone cult, porn video outlets, gyms, and dildo stores. (How much porn, how many dildos, do those muscle-builders need, anyway?) Hansen can direct attention to women in the district, coming up with proposals dealing with women's health, safety, and general well-being.

Focus on the needs of families. Noe Valley contains many struggling families with young children. Hansen can address their concerns about child care, adequate education, and neighborhood cleanliness, peacefulness, and safety.

In stressing issues like these, Hansen will have a natural advantage in being a woman. No male candidate, and least of all those with locker-room photos of themselves, can ever match a woman-identified woman speaking articulately and with feeling about children, women, and families.

The catch, of course, is that Hansen will have to loosen up. She often comes across like Trotsky in drag. Even I would prefer a towel-draped Shawn O'Hearn to that spectacle.

But if Hansen can cut loose and speak with feeling about these women's issues, she would be a tough candidate to defeat.

Arthur Evans
San Francisco

Caught at last

In reference to its decisions on the sexual abuse of children, one has to ponder a question about the Catholic Church.

If they had not been caught, would they have made this public. Would they have told their own members?

For 2000 years they kept it a dark secret, but they finally were caught.

Bill Donahue
Forked River, New Jersey

School district's mismanaged policies

Thanks for your balanced coverage of Supervisor Leland Yee's proposal to split the San Francisco Unified School District [*"Supes divided on Yee's plan to split school district," June 6*]. As you know, this radical idea springs from a deep frustration with the unresponsive and irrational bureaucracy which has mismanaged admission policies in our public schools.

Why does Supervisor Tom Ammiano bring gay issues into this debate? Undoubtedly, there are gay and gay-friendly families all over this city. I think he and Supervisor Mark Leno are wrong to stick up for a dysfunctional admissions policy which fails to serve our children.

"Daddy" David Ambruster
San Francisco

Love will outlast bigotry

I've had enough of this nonsense of denying basic liberties to gay and lesbian Americans. Representative Ronnie Show's proposed constitutional amendment restricting marriage to heterosexuals is inflammatory, exclusionary, and anti-American [*"Anti-gay marriage constitutional amendment introduced," May 23*].

I will of course support my country by fighting against its ratification. Still, I wonder if I should start learning Dutch, in symbolic support of a country superior to ours in some ways.

After last year's catastrophes in New York and Washington, D.C., and the demise of various corporations, surely we have learned that nothing material on Earth is permanent. As we Americans know, some of our amendments have overridden and canceled others; for example, the 21st Amendment erased the 18th. Don't all these incidents show that the one "constant" factor in our world is change? That is why I may be afraid of this amendment, but am not panicked by it.

People may attempt – and succeed – in perverting the Constitution by restricting freedoms it could provide, if our country is foolish and ignorant enough to let it happen. But peace and love, in all their wonderful forms, will outlast bigotry, intolerance, and fear.

David West
San Jose, California

Queer writers naïve

How naïve the queer writers must be if they think the suicide bombings would end if Israel leaves the Palestinian territories and lets them build their own state in peace [*Mailstrom, June 6*]. The blame for the strife is clearly directed at Israel. That in itself is an inaccuracy.

The reader is assured that the writers are neither anti-Semitic nor pro-terror. I can accept that, yet wonder where is their "horror" and "sadness" or outrage when a bunch of senior citizens (think grandparents and great-grandparents) are getting ready to sit down to a Passover meal, and are brutally murdered; or how about some 12- and 13-year-olds (think children) are celebrating bar or bat mitzvah and are blown to bits.

This intellectual coalition should do some further research instead of relying on the status quo propaganda being handed out here in Northern California, and find out what their Middle East colleagues believe, and what they are printing. They are not just calling for the destruction of Israel, but are determined to finish the job that Hitler started and rid the world of all Jews. This, sadly, is the view of the majority of people in the Middle East.

By the way, being pro-Israel is not the same as being pro-war or being for the oppression of others. It seems many problems exist with the word "Zionism," just based on how one defines it. I was taught that G-d forbid, if anything like WWII happened again, there would be a place Jews could go and be safe. That place is Israel. End of definition. For me, being a Zionist is being proud to be a Jew and pro-Israel. My definition includes nothing that is racist or anti-anything, and I resent those who call me such.

It is unfortunate that the only way some of these outspoken critics will wake up from their naïve coma will be when (not if) the U.S.A. has experienced its own suicide bombings. Only then will they see what Israel, population 5 million, has to contend with every day, being surrounded by 500 million people, many of whom use their religion to justify the destruction of all Jews everywhere.

M. Samberg
Oakland, California

Crowded conditions

I have been a resident of San Francisco for 20 years and have watched the quality of life for residents decline due to crowded conditions. As a candidate for supervisor in District 2, I see no need for more buildings, and much need for more open space. I would propose that the city should purchase all remaining vacant lots and require that all new buildings to be built must replace existing structures. All new structures must comply with the safest seismic codes imaginable by the California Seismic Safety Commission and experts in the field. I am very concerned about the large number of brick structures, whether they be reinforced or not, especially those which are residential buildings. The Tenderloin in particular has many, many such buildings, which I would suggest should be torn down and replaced with safe structures.

I am also highly skeptical of the accepted wisdom that our high-rises will safely withstand whatever Mother Nature decides to dish out. It may be very likely that we should dismantle many of the upper stories of the downtown area buildings and further secure the remaining facades.

There is no acceptable level of earthquake-related mortality, despite the opinions of some.

I also oppose any further expansion of the airport and suggest instead, the creation of a new airport in the middle of the Napa Valley, which will be very accessible to all those in the North Bay who wish to jet around to their various destinations, contributing new funds to all our wonderful friends in the Middle East who consider women no more than slaves and democracy a joke. Thanks so much.

Jim Boeger
San Francisco

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CONTINUE TO TELL THE STORY...

Can we talk?

by Paula Martinac

What's the role of dialogue in the process of social change? And can people from different political and social vantage points really talk to and hear each other?

I began thinking a lot about these questions after receiving responses to my March interview with Rosie O'Donnell from religious fundamentalists earnestly trying to persuade me that homosexuality is the wrong path. "Wouldn't it be better to abstain from that lifestyle as a living sacrifice unto God instead of risking losing eternal life?" and "Anyone who is gay has not read the Bible!" were typical of these notes. In general, the responses were polite ("I hope you don't mind my writing to you"), but I tended to dismiss them at first anyway – after all, rereading the Bible won't convince me to take its words literally.

If you watched the televised town meeting from Roanoke, Virginia – part of *Nightline's* recent weeklong series on the lesbian and gay community – you heard similar

thoughts about gay people in abundance. One religious Roanoker after another asserted the "sinfulness" of homosexuality; some went even further, pronouncing it an "evil." Unfortunately, only a few gay people and their allies countered effectively. When host Ted Koppel asked a gay man to reply to a woman's accusation about gays "recruiting," the poor guy looked shell-shocked and replied that he didn't know how to respond to such ignorance.

The Roanoke town meeting underlined a dilemma in our society that I believe stands in the way of meaningful social change. The fact is, many of us have a hard time accepting and communicating with people whose opinions, beliefs, and lives differ sharply from our own. This problem has had devastating consequences for gay people, who don't have full civil rights and are denied them by those who wield power and disagree about our need for legal equality.

But at the same time, the problem has been evident in our own



Christine Smith

community, when, for example, gay men and lesbians have treated each other like alien beings, based mostly on stereotypes. ("Lesbians hate men!" "Gay men are misogynists!") Likewise, gay Republicans and Democrats have used the language of enemies. I recently saw a notice for a panel at the New School in New York called "The Great Gay Political Debate," which promised that speakers from the gay left and right would be on hand to "slug it out."



Lesbian Notions

Deborah Tannen, distinguished professor of linguistics at Georgetown

University and author of many popular books on problems in human communication, would probably say that the reason gay and straight, left and right, can't talk to each other is because we live in an "argument culture" that discourages listening. We're conditioned to see every issue as either-or – in the traditionally male style of debating – and to strive to prove our opponents wrong. In highly volatile situations (like the so-called culture wars between gays and the religious right), "people end up thinking that there is obviously no solution to the problem," Tannen has said, "because the two sides are so polarized."

But what if, Tannen posits, we allowed that there might be three sides to an issue, or four, or more? What if "The Great Gay Political Debate," for example, included the gay center, too? Maybe then instead of a "slug-fest" we'd get dialogue.

There were glimpses of hope at the Roanoke town meeting that suggested some people's willingness to move beyond an absolutist point of view. The straight woman

who seemed adamant that gays "recruit" had within minutes conceded that perhaps her notion of "recruiting" could also be seen as caring outreach. A Methodist minister who earlier in the *Nightline* series had said he would never ordain a gay minister voiced discomfort at straight townspeople judging their gay counterparts; he also admitted that he'd read psychological studies about homosexuality, which were informing his views. A lesbian MCC minister showed interest in accepting a dinner-and-conversation invitation from a fundamentalist Christian who pointedly asked, "Can you see my beliefs as valid for me?"

Of course, there will always be hard-core religious right-wingers who actively try to deny us our legal rights, and we should continue to debate and resist them. And there will always be gays and lesbians who write off all religious people as bigots or view them with derision.

But I'm intrigued by the town meeting format, which is potentially less about debate than discussion and lends itself to the open exchange of ideas for people willing to take part. What if more communities sponsored meetings that gay and religious leaders from various perspectives helped set up and structure?

That might, at least in beleaguered towns like Roanoke, be a start toward social change. After all, as the straight editor of the *Roanoke Times* pointed out, just a few years ago a gay-straight town meeting could have never happened in his city. ▼

Paula Martinac is a Lambda Literary Award-winning author of seven books. She can be reached care of this publication or at PMcolumn@aol.com.

CAPE

◀ page 2

an equal benefits ordinance moves our goals forward significantly," said Selisse Berry, Out and Equal executive director. "We are trying to work with individual companies, colleges, and non-profits to do the same thing but we are doing it piecemeal. If it can happen legislatively then we can focus on city by city and state by state and not by just company by company."

Passage of the statewide legislation would have a tremendous impact in gaining equality in the workplace, said Kors, who was instrumental in the passage of San Francisco's ordinance and helped organize a boycott against United Airlines after it filed the lawsuit.

Jeff Sheehy, who also helped form Equal Benefits Advocates and led the boycott against United, said Kehoe's proposal is

something the community should work to help pass.

"Equal benefits isn't as sexy as marriage," and certainly that needs to be the ultimate goal, but this is something we can achieve if, up and down the state, we all work together," Sheehy said. "I applaud Assemblywoman Kehoe and CAPE for taking this legislation to its next level."

"Considering the number and types of businesses California contracts with, this law could impact hundreds of thousands of employees," noted Kors.

CAPE luncheon

At its third annual San Francisco Fair Workplace Luncheon and CAPE Crusader Awards this month, the statewide LGBT lobbying organization will honor 20 people who were instrumental in seeing the city pass its ordinance. Kors will preside over the ceremony honoring his fellow colleagues who helped in the passage of the historic law.

Those being honored include Tom Ammann, Leslie Katz, Susan Leal, Louise Renne, Jeff Sheehy, Carol Stuart, Cynthia Goldstein, Larry Brinkin, Brian Cheu, Association of Flight Attendants, United Council 11, Dennis Aftergut, Therese Stewart, Jenny Pizer, Matt Coles, Bob Kim, Ellen Forman, Scott Emblidge, Stewart Foreman, Adrienne Go, Joe Quinn, and Randy Riddle.

CAPE will also recognize Kehoe for introducing AB1080, and will present Jean Harris, who stepped down as CAPE's executive director this spring, with an award for her service to the agency.

The luncheon will begin at 11:30 a.m., Friday, June 28, at the Hyatt Embarcadero Hotel, 5 Embarcadero Center at California and Market streets. Tickets cost \$100 per person and can be purchased by calling (323) 634-2035.

For more information, visit CAPE's Web site at www.cal-cape.org. ▼

POLITICS

Simon trying to downplay S&L role

by Wayne Friday

Republican gubernatorial candidate **Bill Simon** has repeatedly criticized Democratic Governor **Gray Davis** for the role Davis and his administration played in awarding software giant Oracle a \$95 million no-bid contract, thereby – according to Simon at least – costing California taxpayers millions for software that wasn't needed.

"Shocking" is the way the Simon camp refers to the Oracle deal. However, a report in last week's *Los Angeles Times* indicates that Simon's hands are not all that clean when it comes to ripping off California taxpayers. Court documents and other records reviewed by the *Times* reveals that Simon was more involved in the 1993 collapse of a savings and loan than he has led the public to believe.

Simon has repeatedly downplayed his role at the Marina del Rey-based Western Federal Savings and Loan, which a Simon family investment group acquired in 1988 and the government seized five years later at a cost to taxpayers of \$122 million. As the *Times* put it, Simon, who touts as part of his campaign his credentials that he is a "successful businessman," and the one who hopes to run a state with a \$23.6 billion budget, in fact carried out his responsibilities at an institution in severe financial distress.

During this year's GOP primary, former Los Angeles Mayor **Richard Riordan** used the failed S&L against Simon and now Western Federal is becoming a liability for Simon in his campaign against Davis, who seized on the issue in the first attack ad of the general election campaign last week.

Davis, in his television ad questioning Simon's campaign theme of being a "successful businessman," blames the taxpayer bailout of Western Federal (to the tune of \$122 million) on mismanagement by Simon. The first trace of Simon in the affairs of Western Federal is his signature on the August 1988 application for government approval of the purchase. He, in fact, was one of three people who signed for the buyers. In a recent interview with the *Times*, Simon finally admitted he was on the Western Federal board for nearly two years, and that his father had put him in charge of watching the family investment.

Maybe Davis has a point – if Simon can't keep a family-owned S&L from collapsing, costing California taxpayers \$122 million, can he really handle a state budget of nearly \$24 billion?

Officer Jon C. Cook

There are nearly 2,300 sworn men and women in the San Francisco Police Department, and having been on the Police Commission for a number of years, I've had the chance to meet many of them. The men and women – gay and straight – who make up the San Francisco Police Department are, in my opinion, collectively the best large-city Police Department in the country. I first met Jon Cook as a cadet when he was in



The memorial to Officer Jon C. Cook at 17th and Dolores streets.

the Academy more than two years ago through his mentor, Sergeant **Chuck Limbert** of Mission Station. I was present when he was sworn in with his class at McAttee School months later and

remember in particular how really happy he was that night. I think I was the fourth person to shake his hand and congratulate him after he received his star that night; I recall telling Jon how proud I was for him –

proud that he had finally reached his dream of becoming a police officer, but particularly proud that he was an openly gay cop. I never got to know Jon well, but would run into him at social events; he talked a couple of times about how much he liked his job, and then on Monday I went to his funeral. The fact that I am proud of the men and women of the San Francisco Police Department obviously goes without saying; I'm also unabashedly proud of the gay and lesbian officers; they're good cops, and none came finer than Jon Cook.

Politics and people

A nice life if you can have it: In addition to California's two U.S. Senators, at least 16 of the state's 52 House members are also millionaires. In Senator **Dianne Feinstein's** (D) case, the senior senator and her husband, financier **Richard Blum**, listed assets worth at least \$34 million; they had so many investments that her financial disclosure form runs 124 pages. It is, of course, difficult to even come close to determining a lawmaker's true worth from the required disclosure forms since personal assets and liabilities are reported in only broad ranges, from \$250,001 to \$500,000, for instance. Hey, you don't have to be rich to go into politics, but it obviously helps. But then, there are those who somehow manage to get rich after they get into politics ... yep, good work if you can get it.

And then I constantly get asked about the \$200,000-plus annual salary of **Pat Christen**, executive director of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. Do I think the lady is overpaid? Sure, but the board keeps giving her a raise every year. Nothing against the director (I don't even know her), but anytime someone heading a group like the AIDS foundation

gets paid more than any elected official in the state and over half that of the president of the United States, it's time to ask some questions. One question might be: What would happen to so many of these people if miraculously a cure or prevention was found next week for HIV/AIDS? A lot of people – with high salaries – would be out of work, wouldn't they?

Some press flacks will tell you "there is no such thing as bad publicity"; the late Harvey Milk, upon getting negative press, would brush it off with the comment "sticks and stones can break my bones, but spell my name right."

But does District 8 supe candidate **Shawn O'Hearn** really think for a minute that putting a near-naked photo of himself on his personal Web site (with a link to his campaign Web site), only to have it land on the front page of the state's largest gay paper, is going to gain him any votes? He and his campaign have become a joke. I've been a political junkie for many years and his ploy is one of the dumbest things I've ever encountered in a political campaign. As for having even the slightest chance of getting elected – you can stick a fork in O'Hearn; he's done.

Another (serious) District 8 supe candidate, **Bevan Duffy**, sent out a fundraising letter to friends that reads: "I will limit contributions to \$100, rather than the \$500 allowed by law; I will not accept corporate, PAC or lobbyist contributions – or donations from individuals who do not live or work in San Francisco" (good idea, Mr. Duffy).

District Attorney **Terence Hallinan** told me Saturday that he "definitely" will run for a third term next year ("my wife gave me permission," Kayo said) which means that **Jim Hammer**, Hallinan's bright, young Homicide Division head, will not be a candidate; **Bill Fazio** and **Kamela Harris** will be taking on Hallinan, however.

So who the hell is this **Shawna Virago**, writing in *Inside Pride* ("The official San Francisco Pride Guide"), telling LGBT San Francisco police officers that they shouldn't march in the Pride Parade this year in their uniforms? Says Virago: "I'm fine with the SFPD's finest marching, just not in their uniforms." Get lost, Ms. Thang! The San Francisco LGBT police officers will be marching in the Pride Parade on June 30, in part to honor the memory of Officer Jon Cook, an openly gay (and proud) officer who died last week while doing his job. Incidentally, Ms. Virago, did anyone tell you what you could or could not wear in the parade?

Supervisor **Mark Leno** will be sharing a car in the parade with **John Laird**, the Democratic Assembly nominee in the 27th District (Boulder Creek/Santa Cruz). Leno and Laird, two good guys headed for the California Assembly after the November elections.

Interested in helping Supervisor **Gavin Newsom** get his Care Not Cash initiative on the November ballot? Call (415) 864-6717 or e-mail the campaign at: carenotcash@yahoo.com.

And how was your week? ▼

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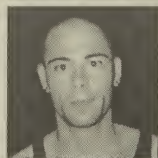


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Were there any gay Nazis?

by Paula Martinac

June 30, 1934 (68 years ago this month): German Chancellor Adolf Hitler has 150 alleged opponents of the Nazi regime murdered, among them many prominent homosexuals.

Today, the regime of Adolf Hitler is remembered not only for its slaughter of millions of Jews, but for its mass imprisonment of homosexuals under a German criminal statute called Paragraph 175. But in the early days of Nazi rule, there were actually a number of high-level party members who were gay.

Paragraph 175, which became the law of the land in 1871, stipulated that "a male who indulges in criminally indecent activity with another male ... will be punished with imprisonment." However, convictions under this law were infrequent, since it was difficult to prove what two men had done in private.

As Adolf Hitler began his ascent to power in the early 1930s, he at first endorsed a laissez-faire attitude toward homosexuality, especially among his close associates — thus helping to fuel rumors that he himself was gay. Sly insinuations about Hitler's sexuality came from his enemies in Germany and from members of the foreign press. American journalist Dorothy Thompson, for example, after interviewing Hitler in 1931, wrote about his "soft, almost feminine charm. ... I bet he crooks his little finger when he drinks a cup of tea."

Recently, German historian Lothar Machtan posited the theory that the fuhrer was indeed, in his early years, actively homosexual. Among Machtan's "evidence" were Hitler's many close, intimate-seeming associations with men who preferred male companionship.

One of Hitler's most loyal deputies, for example, was Rudolf Hess, who had been imprisoned with Hitler in 1923, following the Nazis' unsuccessful attempt to overthrow the government — the famous Beer Hall Putsch. After their release from prison in 1924, the two enjoyed a close personal relationship that Hess called a "most beautiful human experience," lasting until Hitler's suicide in 1945.

Hess's contemporaries had revealing nicknames for the sensitive, effeminate man, like "Fraulein Hess," "Fraulein Paula," and "Black Emma." Although

Hess eventually married — at Hitler's suggestion — his wife later complained that her life with him was much like that of a "convent schoolgirl."

Also prominent among Hitler's intimates was Ernst Rohm, commander of the S.A. — the Nazi storm troopers. Rohm, a tough, brawny man who had been an army officer during World War I, became part of Hitler's inner circle in 1919, when the future fuhrer began venturing into politics. Although Rohm left the S.A. for a few years over differences with Hitler — Rohm wanted the storm troopers to be independent of the party — in 1931 he was invited back by Hitler and once again firmly entrenched in power.

Unlike others in the Nazi Party, Rohm was openly homosexual, admitting to associates that he was "far from unhappy" about his sexual orientation. He frequented gay bars, belonged to a homosexual organization called the League for Human Rights, and publicly advocated the repeal of Paragraph 175. An anonymous 1932 article called "National Socialism and Inversion" has been credited to Rohm's influence (or even authorship); the article stated that if Nazi Party members performed their official duties well, they were entitled to private lives of "creative eroticism" and "loving homosexual relationship[s]."

Rohm established a kind of gay network within the S.A., assigning prominent posts to gay friends and lovers. Among Rohm's "sweethearts" was Edmund Heines, whom Rohm appointed first as his deputy and later as leader of the Munich branch of the S.A. Another of Rohm's favorites was Karl Ernst, who was nicknamed "Frau Rohrbain" for his intimate friendship with Paul Rohrbain, Berlin's S.A. commander. After meeting Rohm, Ernst had a meteoric rise from a leadership position in the S.A. to a seat in the Reichstag, Germany's legislative body.

Rohm and his close-knit circle — dubbed in a Munich paper the "Brotherhood of Poofs" — had powerful, homophobic enemies who convinced Hitler that Rohm was a threat. These included Joseph Goebbels, head of Nazi propaganda, and Paul Schultz, captain of the Berlin S.A., who warned Hitler of the danger in "the employment of morally objectionable persons in positions of authority." Although Hitler's decision to destroy Rohm and his network was framed as a safeguard against a possible S.A. putsch, it may have also been designed to put to rest the rumors about Hitler's sexuality.

On June 30, 1934 — called the Night of Long Knives — Hitler, Goebbels, and a small group of Gestapo traveled in the middle of the night to a resort where Rohm

and his lieutenants were enjoying a furlough, sleeping peacefully in a hotel, some with their male companions at their side. Edmund Heines was dragged from his bed and shot. In recognition of his long friendship with Hitler, the half-dressed Rohm was given a pistol and ordered to kill himself, but he refused and was executed.

Over the next four days, about 150 S.A. leaders were rounded up and shot by firing squads. In a radio speech, Goebbels announced that "a clean sweep is being made ... symptoms of moral degeneration that manifest themselves in public life are being cauterized." The following year, Nazi policy took a sharp turn toward a harsher interpretation of Paragraph 175, sending thousands of gay men to concentration camps. ▼

Paula Martinac is a Lambda Literary Award-winning author of seven books, including *The Queerest Places: A Guide to Gay and Lesbian Historic Sites*. She can be reached care of this publication or at P0column@aol.com.

Suggested reading

Gallo, Max. 1997. *The Night of Long Knives*. New York: Da Capo Press.
Machtan, Lothar. 2001. *The Hidden Hitler*. New York: Basic Books.

Pets and their humans discussed next Thursday

by Zak Szymanski

It is a generally accepted notion that animals can provide emotional comfort and therefore even physical improvement to people with debilitating conditions such as HIV/AIDS. But not a lot of knowledge has been presented in one place about the link between furry companions and human health conditions.

That's why Pets Are Wonderful Support, the nonprofit agency dedicated to keeping pets and people with illnesses together, will sponsor a discussion next Thursday, June 27 at 7 p.m. entitled "Providing Care for People and their Animal Companions: Lessons Learned from the AIDS Epidemic."

Presented by Jim Lear, the PAWS veterinary extern in his fourth year at Atlantic Veterinary College, the talk will focus on the history and evolution of PAWS, the role of veterinarians and others in maintaining the bond between disabled people and their pets, and the role of the animal care professional as an educator.

"I'll be explaining that there's a huge disparity of information; that doctors know some things and vets know other things but not a lot of communication exists between the two," Lear told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "I'll also be outlining major diseases in lay persons terminology, focusing on symptoms, how to prevent contraction of immuno-compromising diseases, expanding the idea of im-

mune diseases beyond HIV/AIDS, and expanding the diseases that now fit into the PAWS client base."

Although founded as an AIDS service agency, PAWS has increasingly been accepting clients who may not have HIV/AIDS but do have some other debilitating condition and need help caring for their pets. Since the beginning of the AIDS epidemic, PAWS recognized a need for people with illnesses to

maintain their relationships with their animals, and for the public to be informed on matters such as animal-human disease risks.

Next week's discussion takes place at the LGBT Community Center at 1800 Market Street, room Q33, and will be followed by a cocktail party hosted by the Lesbian Gay Veterinary Medical Association. For more information, call (415) 241-1464. ▼

A salute to AOF



Champagne Laurent-Perrier hosted its monthly "Pink Tuesday" reception June 11 at Jardinière Restaurant and in recognition of Pride Month, honored the Academy of Friends, the organization that puts on the popular Oscar party that raises funds for AIDS organizations. Joining in the fun were, from left, Nina Dietzel, AOF board chair Joseph Swimmer, Supervisor Mark Leno, Laurent-Perrier Vice President Francois Peltreanu-Villeneuve, and publicist Charles Zukow.

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◀ page 1

partment have wrapped their badges with black bands in honor of the fallen officer.

More than 2,000 people attended a funeral Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral on Geary Boulevard Monday morning. Hundreds of onlookers watched as Cook's casket was driven up Market Street and down Castro Street after the service.

Nearly 400 people gathered for a community remembrance held at the Metropolitan Community Church in the Castro last Saturday, June 15.

"Jon was proud to be a cop and proud to be a gay man. And he saw no conflict in being both," said the Reverend Penny Nixon.

Raised in Medford, Oregon, Cook received a master's degree in microbiology from Georgetown University and was a lieu-

tenant in the United States Air Force. He had joined the Police Department in April 2001, leaving a job as a biotech researcher to pursue a lifelong dream of becoming a cop.

"He was my kind of guy. He loved being a cop," said Greg Corrales, captain of Mission Station, who first met Cook and shared a shot of tequila with him at Moby Dicks in the Castro.

Cook and his domestic partner, Jared Strawderman, would have celebrated their third anniversary this month. During the community remembrance, Strawderman recalled Cook as both a strong man and a gentle lover.

"He was quiet and reserved and had a sense of honor. He could take down an assailant and run out of a room screaming like a girl at the sight of a spider," he said.

Cook's Police Academy classmates said he was like a father figure to them, and his instructor re-

called how Cook would e-mail him about how a fellow classmate was struggling and could use some extra instruction.

"Jon supported every single one of us everyday. We modeled ourselves after Jon," said one classmate.

Corrales said he is comforted in knowing that just as Cook did in life, he is now watching over his fellow police officers.

"He is going to be up there looking out for all of us, backing us up when we need back up," he said.

Before playing their favorite song, "One More Day" by the country western group Diamond Rio, Strawderman expressed thanks to the community for its support to both him and Cook's family.

"It has been amazing," he said. "While I miss Jon more than my broken heart can express, I couldn't be any more proud of him than I am now." ▼

Pat takes pay cut

◀ page 1

vocacy, financial benefits counseling, needle exchange, treatment information and support, the AIDS Hotline, Black Brothers Esteem, and Gay Life activities — will all continue. And no client will lose housing as a result of the cutbacks, the agency has promised.

"It's been a very thoughtful process," said Suárez. "The stability we had has allowed us to sit back and analyze and make leveraged use of the resources we have to achieve the greatest efficiencies and carry on our mission as effec-

tively as possible. For that we are really grateful."

Although no client services will be discontinued, SFAF did acknowledge that the capacity to provide these services would be reduced, translating into longer waiting periods for some services, and less one-on-one time with staff.

But it could have been worse, noted Suárez, who also credited the success of SFAF's new bike-athon event, AIDS LifeCycle, with preventing what would have been even more cuts. The new fundraiser — marred by controversy because it was created in response to and competed with Pallotta Teamworks' California AIDS

Ride — brought in more than \$4 million, much of which will go to SFAF. SFAF severed its ties with Pallotta last year after the 2001 California AIDS Ride's dismal financial return to the foundation and the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center.

"That's stupendous for a first-year event," said Suárez. "If AIDS LifeCycle had not been a success the budget shortfall would be almost double what we're facing. The event now has a solid foundation and will grow into something that will be able to support a lot of services."

The foundation now projects a total budget of \$20.7 million for the new fiscal year. ▼



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Soulforce members arrested at Baptist confab

by Joe Dignan

Fifty gay and lesbian rights activists were arrested while protesting what the demonstration's organizers called "spiritual violence against GLBT people" at the Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis, Missouri on June 11.

About 250 demonstrators chanted and carried signs that read "Stop Southern Baptist Bigotry," and "Southern Baptist Teachings are Killing God's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Children" outside of St. Louis' convention center where the Baptists were holding their annual three-day meeting.

Thirty-eight of the demonstrators were arrested as they marched in groups of four or five, arms linked or holding hands, across the street in front of the America's Center and into the lines of police blocking the entrances.

Twelve of the demonstrators had gained entry into the meeting itself, where 9,600 "messengers" had gathered to elect new leadership, vote on a resolution holding their spiritual leaders to the "highest standards of Christian moral practice," a reference to the Southern Baptist Convention's stance against homosexuality, and hear an address from President Bush delivered live from Washington, D.C. via satellite.



Soulforce activists protest the Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis.

"They were all dressed in their Sunday best. They could have passed as Southern Baptists," Kara Speltz, one of the protesters who is from Oakland, said, referring to Soulforce members who gained entrance to the meeting.

As the Southern Baptist Convention's outgoing President Dr. James Merritt began his prepared remarks, the demonstrators rose from their seats in pairs, holding up signs and shouting.

"We are God's children too. Your teachings are killing LGBT people. We just want you to hear us," they shouted.

They walked through the aisles and started marching toward the stage where Merritt was flanked by giant projection screens with images of his face and quotations from his speech. "Christianity is

not for the faint of heart," read one of the messages.

Security guards immediately surrounded the protesters.

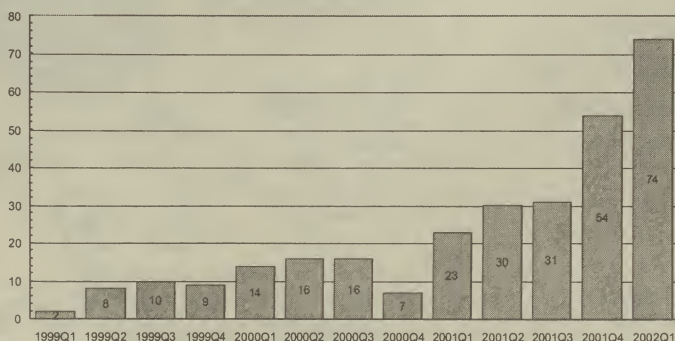
"The security guards have you by both arms," said Speltz, explaining Soulforce members' actions. "You don't go limp. You don't try and get out of their grasp — but you don't shut up. You don't be quiet. You keep yelling."

"They were led away to a private area off the floor where the press couldn't get in," Speltz said. "They were held there until the police came and they were taken to jail. Although the charges were later dropped, they were booked on felony ethnic intimidation. It's illegal to disrupt a religious meeting. It covers race, religion, and sexual orientation. The police said

page 19 ►

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Gay Catholics wait for fallout from bishops meeting

by Joe Dignan

While the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops meeting in Dallas focused on how the church would deal with past and present sex offenders, an undercurrent of anti-gay sentiment was part of the debate as to how to prevent such abuse in the future.

The last article of the charter adopted by the bishops on June 14 pledges "complete cooperation" with the Vatican's planned "apostolic visitation" of U.S. seminaries. Gay rights advocates fear that the purpose of these visits will be to remove gay seminarians before they reach the priesthood.

"I think it's clearly code for root out the fags," said Marianne Duddy, executive director of Dignity/USA, an organization of LGBT Catholics.

The charter says, "We look forward to this opportunity to strengthen our priestly formation programs so that they may provide God's people with mature and holy priests."

"If you take it at face value, what they're looking for are mature, holy priests," Duddy said. "But in Rome, where the inspectors are coming from, the homophobia is 10 times worse. That's the piece we'll have to be watching."

"It's an invitation to inquisi-

tion," said Mel White, founder of Soulforce, an organization that campaigns against what it calls "spiritual violence" against gays and lesbians by religious institutions.

The apostolic visitations are scheduled to start in August and are expected to last for two years.

The bishops rejected, by voice vote with as few as six supporters, an anti-gay proposal by conservative Bishop Fabian Bruskewitz, of Lincoln, Nebraska. His "Amendment 27" would have blamed the sex abuse scandals on the "current homosexual culture."

Bruskewitz, unique among American bishops, has threatened excommunication against any Lincoln, Nebraska Catholics who join organizations such as Planned Parenthood, the Freemasons and Call to Action, a group that advocates for greater lay involvement in the church's decision making process.

While not part of the bishops' official agenda, the involvement of gays and lesbians in the church was one of the big subjects of discussions in Dallas.

"For something that's not in the documents, there have been an awful lot of conversations," Duddy said.

"We've been doing 'round the clock interviews. Everybody wants to know about gay priests. The Roman Catholic Faithful, a

page 19 ►



VIRACEPT® (nelfinavir mesylate)

Tablets and Oral Powder

Information for Patients
about VIRACEPT® (VI-ra-cept)

Generic Name: nelfinavir (nel-FIN-na-veer) mesylate

For the Treatment of Human
Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection

Please read this information carefully before taking VIRACEPT. Also, please read this leaflet each time you renew the prescription, just in case anything has changed. This is a summary and not a replacement for a careful discussion with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss VIRACEPT when you start taking this medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when taking VIRACEPT and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

Alert: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with VIRACEPT. Please also read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH VIRACEPT".

WHAT IS VIRACEPT AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

VIRACEPT is used in combination with other antiretroviral drugs in the treatment of people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. Infection with HIV leads to the destruction of CD4 T cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of CD4 cells have been destroyed, the infected person develops acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

VIRACEPT works by blocking HIV protease (a protein-cutting enzyme), which is required for HIV to multiply. VIRACEPT has been shown to significantly reduce the amount of HIV in the blood. Although VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV or AIDS, VIRACEPT can help reduce your risk for death and illness associated with HIV. Patients who took VIRACEPT also had significant increases in the number of CD4 cell count.

VIRACEPT should be taken together with other antiretroviral drugs such as Retrovir® (zidovudine, AZT), EpiVir® (lamivudine, 3TC), or Zerit® (stavudine, d4T). Taking VIRACEPT in combination with other antiretroviral drugs reduces the amount of HIV in the body (viral load) and raises CD4 counts.

VIRACEPT may be taken by adults, adolescents, and children 2 years of age or older. Studies in infants younger than 2 years of age are now taking place.

DOES VIRACEPT CURE HIV OR AIDS?

VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. People taking VIRACEPT may still develop opportunistic infections or other conditions associated with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections, and Kaposi's sarcoma.

There is no proof that VIRACEPT can reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

WHO SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT TAKE VIRACEPT?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether VIRACEPT is appropriate for you. In making your decision, the following should be considered:

Allergies: If you have had a serious allergic reaction to VIRACEPT, you must not take VIRACEPT. You should also inform your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist of any known allergies to substances such as other medicines, foods, preservatives, or dyes.

If you are pregnant: The effects of VIRACEPT on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known. If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

If you are breast-feeding: You should discuss with your doctor the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that it can be transmitted through breast-feeding. **Women should not breast-feed if they have HIV.**

Children: VIRACEPT is available for the treatment of children 2 through 13 years of age with HIV. There is a powder form of VIRACEPT that can be mixed with milk, baby formula, or foods like pudding. Instructions on how to take VIRACEPT powder can be found in a later section that discusses how VIRACEPT Oral Powder should be prepared.

If you have liver disease: VIRACEPT has not been studied in people with liver disease. If you have liver disease, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

Other medical problems: Certain medical problems may affect the use of VIRACEPT. Some people taking protease inhibitors have developed new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Some people with hemophilia have had increased bleeding. It is not known whether the protease inhibitors caused these problems. Be sure to tell your doctor if you have hemophilia types A and B, diabetes mellitus, or an increase in thirst and/or frequent urination.

Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking protease inhibitors. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the face, legs and arms may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

CAN VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

VIRACEPT may interact with other drugs, including those you take without a prescription. You must discuss with your doctor any drugs that you are taking or are planning to take before you take VIRACEPT.

Medicines you should not take with VIRACEPT:

Propulsid® (cisapride, for heartburn)

Cordarone® (amiodarone, for irregular heartbeat)

Quinidine (for irregular heartbeat), also known as Quinaglute®, Cardioquin®, Quinidex®, and others

Ergot derivatives (Cafergot® and others, for migraine headache)

Halcion® (triazolam)

Versed® (midazolam)

Mevacor® (lovastatin, for cholesterol lowering)

Zocor® (simvastatin, for cholesterol lowering)

Taking the above drugs with VIRACEPT may cause serious and/or life-threatening adverse events.

Rifampin® (for tuberculosis), also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®
This drug reduces blood levels of VIRACEPT.

Dose reduction required if you take VIRACEPT with: Mycobutin® (rifabutin, for MAC); you will need to take a lower dose of Mycobutin.

A change of therapy should be considered if you are taking VIRACEPT with:

Phenobarbital

Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)

Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)

These agents may reduce the amount of VIRACEPT in your blood and make it less effective.

Oral contraceptives ("the pill")

If you are taking the pill to prevent pregnancy, you should use a different type of contraception since VIRACEPT may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.

Special considerations

Before you take Viagra® (sildenafil) with VIRACEPT, talk to your doctor about possible drug interactions and side effects. If you take Viagra and VIRACEPT together, you may be at increased risk of side effects of Viagra such as low blood pressure, visual changes, and penile erection lasting more than 4 hours. If an erection lasts longer than 4 hours, you should seek immediate medical assistance to avoid permanent damage to your penis. Your doctor can explain these symptoms to you.

It is not recommended to take VIRACEPT with the cholesterol-lowering drugs Mevacor® (lovastatin) or Zocor® (simvastatin) because of possible drug interactions. There is also an increased risk of drug interactions between VIRACEPT and Lipitor® (atorvastatin) and Baycol® (cerivastatin); talk to your doctor before you take either of these cholesterol reducing drugs with VIRACEPT.

Taking St. John's wort (hypericum perforatum), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort with VIRACEPT is not recommended. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or are planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease VIRACEPT levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to VIRACEPT or cross resistance to other antiretroviral drugs.

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER ANTI-HIV DRUGS?

Taking VIRACEPT together with other anti-HIV drugs increases their ability to fight the virus. It also reduces the opportunity for resistant viruses to grow. Based on your history of taking other anti-HIV medicine, your doctor will direct you on how to take VIRACEPT and other anti-HIV medicines. These drugs should be taken in a certain order or at specific times. This will depend on how many times a day each medicine should be taken. It will also depend on whether it should be taken with or without food.

Nucleoside analogues: No drug interaction problems were seen when VIRACEPT was given with:

Retrovir (zidovudine, AZT)

EpiVir (lamivudine, 3TC)

Zerit (stavudine, d4T)

Videx® (didanosine, ddI)

If you are taking both Videx (ddI) and VIRACEPT:

Videx should be taken without food, on an empty stomach. Therefore, you should take VIRACEPT with food one hour after or more than two hours before you take Videx.

Nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs):

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

Viramune® (nevirapine)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood is unchanged. A dose adjustment is not needed when VIRACEPT is used with Viramune.

Sustiva™ (efavirenz)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. A dose adjustment is not needed when VIRACEPT is used with Sustiva.

Other NNRTIs

VIRACEPT has not been studied with other NNRTIs.

Other protease inhibitors:

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

Crixivan® (indinavir)

The amount of both drugs in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

Norvir™ (ritonavir)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

Invirase® (saquinavir)

The amount of saquinavir in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF VIRACEPT?

Like all medicines, VIRACEPT can cause side effects. Most of the side effects experienced with VIRACEPT have been mild to moderate. Diarrhea is the most common side effect in people taking VIRACEPT, and most adult patients had at least mild diarrhea at some point during treatment. In clinical studies, about 15-20% of patients receiving VIRACEPT 750 mg (three tablets) three times daily or 1250 mg (five tablets) two times daily had four or more loose stools a day. In most cases, diarrhea can be controlled using antidiarrheal medicines, such as Imodium® A-D (loperamide) and others, which are available without a prescription.

Other side effects that occurred in 2% or more of patients receiving VIRACEPT include nausea, gas and rash.

There were other side effects noted in clinical studies that occurred in less than 2% of patients receiving VIRACEPT. However, these side effects may have been due to other drugs that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Except for diarrhea, there were not many differences in side effects in patients who took VIRACEPT along with other drugs compared with those who took only the other drugs. For a complete list of side effects,

ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

HOW SHOULD I TAKE VIRACEPT?

VIRACEPT is available only with your doctor's prescription. Your doctor may prescribe the light blue VIRACEPT Tablets either as 1250 mg (five tablets) taken two times a day or as 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. VIRACEPT should always be taken with a meal or a light snack. VIRACEPT tablets are film-coated to help make the tablets easier to swallow.

Take VIRACEPT exactly as directed by your doctor. Do not increase or decrease any dose or the number of doses per day. Also, take this medicine for the exact period of time that your doctor has instructed. **Do not stop taking VIRACEPT without first consulting with your doctor, even if you are feeling better.**

Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give VIRACEPT to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

The dosing of VIRACEPT may be different for you than for other patients. **Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.** The amount of VIRACEPT in the blood should remain somewhat consistent over time. Missing doses will cause the concentration of VIRACEPT to decrease; therefore, **you should not miss any doses.** However, if you miss a dose, you should take the dose as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose and future doses as originally scheduled.

Dosing in adults (including children 14 years of age and older)

The recommended adult dose of VIRACEPT is 1250 mg (five tablets) taken two times a day or 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. Each dose should be taken with a meal or light snack.

Dosing in children 2 to 13 years of age

The VIRACEPT dose in children depends on their weight. The recommended dose is 20 to 30 mg/kg (or 9 to 14 mg/pound) per dose, taken three times daily with a meal or light snack. This can be administered either in tablet form or, in children unable to take tablets, as VIRACEPT Oral Powder.

Dose instructions will be provided by the child's doctor. The dose will be given three times daily using the measuring scoop provided, a measuring teaspoon, or one or more tablets depending on the weight and age of the child. The amount of oral powder or tablets to be given to a child is described in the chart below.

Pediatric Dose to Be Administered Three Times Daily				
Body Weight		Number of Level Scoops*	Number of Level Teaspoons†	Number of Tablets
Kg	Lb			
7 to <8.5	15.5 to <18.5	4	1	—
8.5 to <10.5	18.5 to <23	5	1 1/4	—
10.5 to <12	23 to <26.5	6	1 1/2	—
12 to <14	26.5 to <31	7	1 3/4	—
14 to <16	31 to <35	8	2	—
16 to <18	35 to <39.5	9	2 1/4	—
18 to <23	39.5 to <50.5	10	2 1/2	2
≥23	≥50.5	15	3 3/4	3

In measuring oral powder, the scoop or teaspoon should be level.

* 1 level scoop contains 50 mg of VIRACEPT. Use only the scoop provided with your VIRACEPT bottle.

† 1 level teaspoon contains 200 mg of VIRACEPT. Note: A measuring teaspoon used for dispensing medication should be used for measuring VIRACEPT Oral Powder. Ask your pharmacist to make sure you have a medication dispensing teaspoon.

How should VIRACEPT Oral Powder be prepared?

The oral powder may be mixed with a small amount of water, milk, formula, soy formula, soy milk, dietary supplements, or dairy foods such as pudding or ice cream. Once mixed, the entire amount must be taken to obtain the full dose.

Do not mix the powder with any acidic food or juice, such as orange or grapefruit juice, apple juice, or apple sauce, because this may create a bitter taste.

Once the powder is mixed, it may be stored at room temperature or refrigerated for up to 6 hours. Do not heat the mixed dose once it has been prepared.

Do not add water to bottles of oral powder.

VIRACEPT powder is supplied with a scoop for measuring. For help in determining the exact dose of powder for your child, please ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

VIRACEPT Oral Powder contains aspartame, a low-calorie sweetener, and therefore should not be taken by children with phenylketonuria (PKU).

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE STORED?

Keep VIRACEPT and all other medicines out of the reach of children. Keep bottle closed and store at room temperature (between 59°F and 86°F) away from sources of moisture such as a sink or other damp place. Heat and moisture may reduce the effectiveness of VIRACEPT.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

Discuss all questions about your health with your doctor. If you have questions about VIRACEPT or any other medication you are taking, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You can also call 1.888.VIRACEPT (1.888.847.2237) toll free.

Call 1.888.VIRACEPT

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Study stirs debate on benefits of circumcision as HIV prevention

by Matthew S. Bajko

As more gay men and lesbians decide to have children, one parental decision is gaining more attention these days. Should parents have their baby boys circumcised?

The American Academy of Pediatrics, after reviewing 40 years of research on the benefits and risks of circumcision, has concluded it cannot recommend a policy of routine newborn circumcision. And the San Francisco-based National Organization to Halt the Abuse and Routine Mutilation of Males calls circumcision "a sexually oppressive abuse of human rights."

Although the exact frequency is unknown, it is estimated that 1.2 million newborn males are circumcised in the United States annually at a cost of between \$150 and \$270 million, according to the pediatrician's group.

NOHARMM argues that of the 10 percent of male newborns who will grow up to be gay and, of those who are circumcised, many will resent this violation of their bodies and rights. The organization views any policy advocating circumcision for HIV prevention as "a pathetic medical response."

But a new study released last month calls that position into question. According to a study presented at the annual meeting of the American Urological Association in May, circumcision could help protect against HIV transmission because the foreskin of the penis contains cells that are especially susceptible to HIV infection.

For the study, named "Biologic Mechanisms of HIV Infection of Human Foreskin: Implications for Transmission," scientists from Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center in Chicago examined foreskin tissue from eight children and six adults. The researchers examined the tissue for the presence of CD4+ T cells, macrophages, and Langerhan's cells, all of which are "major HIV target cells."

When compared to samples of female cervical tissue, the foreskin tissue contained higher proportions of CD4+ T cells, macrophages, and Langerhan's cells, and adult foreskin tissues contained the highest proportion of such cells. CD4+ T cells and Langerhan's cells found on the inner surface of the foreskin were seven times more susceptible to HIV infection than cervical tissue cells infected under the same condition, the researchers stated.

"During sexual intercourse, this inner layer is the area that becomes traumatized and infected. In fact, we were not able to infect the outer layer of foreskin," lead study author Carlos Estrada told Reuters.

He stated that in developing countries, the "circumcision of children could provide a protective effect down the road." The scientists also found that the HIV receptor CCR5 was "especially predominant" on foreskin tissue cells infected with the virus. This finding suggests that products that block CCR5 receptors and that could be applied topically to the penis or vagina should be developed, the study states.

While the pediatrician's associa-

tion says circumcision is not essential to a child's well-being at birth, it does believe the procedure has some potential medical benefits.

The group recommends parents talk to their pediatricians about the procedure and says it is essential that pain relief be provided for the infant during the procedure.

Since circumcision is a decision made long before men become sexually active, oftentimes the topic is not a main focus for HIV prevention agencies. As for gay men who are uncircumcised, health advocates say their best protection against HIV is to practice proper hygiene and engage in safe sex.

"When looking at a group of sexually active adult gay or bisexual men, circumcision is not going to be a pressing current concern," said

Shana Krochmal, spokeswoman for the Stop AIDS Project. "Certainly it is something guys have heard about and is occasionally a topic of conversation when people are having longer conversations about safer sex. But we don't have an official position on circumcision."

Several studies are under way in the United States and in Africa to look at a wider sample of men who are both circumcised and uncircumcised. Researchers expect to have more definitive answers within five years.

"If you can reduce HIV transmissions through this, you would have, to me, an application that certainly should be done and applied," said Dr. Alan Landay, a researcher at Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center in Chicago. ▼

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Jurors blast Warren's decision

by Ed Walsh

The Los Angeles jurors who voted to convict Marjorie Knoller and Robert Noel are blasting Judge Warren for overturning their second-degree murder conviction of Knoller.

"I was shocked," juror Vanessa Caroline told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "There goes five or six weeks of our lives."

Caroline noted that the jury was made up of people from various age groups and ethnic backgrounds and that they all believed that Knoller was guilty of second-degree murder. Now, Caroline believes their hard work is wasted.

"She didn't want to take responsibility for her actions and she's getting away with it," she said. "It's such a joke nowadays, that's why there's so much crime,

so much murder, because everything's excused."

Caroline added that it was a hardship for her to serve on the jury because neither of her two part-time jobs paid her for jury service. She said she now has to work eight hours a day, seven days a week, to pay off the debt she incurred while she wasn't working. At one point in the trial, Caroline said she considered stepping down after she caught the flu but she decided to stick with it out of a sense of duty.

"If I had known this would have happened, I would have gone home and rested," she said.

The jury foreman, Don Newton, echoed much of Caroline's sentiments. Newton told the *B.A.R.* that like Caroline, he was surprised that Warren believed Knoller when she testified that she had no idea her dogs could be ca-

pable of killing someone.

"He's done something he hadn't done during the trial and that is take Marjorie Knoller seriously," Newton explained.

Newton added that Warren seemed to have taken the theory of implied malice "to a new level." He said jurors found Knoller culpable because she should have known the dogs were "highly dangerous."

Neither Caroline nor Newton were able to attend the sentencing because of work obligations in Los Angeles. The only juror in attendance was an alternate. She spoke briefly to reporters outside court saying that she was sure the jury's verdict to convict Knoller of second-degree murder was just.

"I don't have a doubt," said the juror who gave only her first name, Cindy. "Once the law was read to us, it was very clear." ▼

Knoller talks with the B.A.R.

by Ed Walsh

A relieved and surprised Marjorie Knoller said that contrary to statements by Judge James Warren and others who spoke at Monday's hearing, she is deeply remorseful about Diane Whipple's death.

"I'm sorry, I'm sorry," an emotional Knoller told the *Bay Area Reporter* in an exclusive newspaper interview after Warren issued his decision striking down her conviction for second-degree murder. "What's really gotten to me is not being able to stop it," explained Knoller, referring to her not being able to stop the fatal mauling of Whipple, her neighbor.

Knoller said she still suffers from flashbacks, nightmares, and "survivor's guilt."

"You don't know why you're not dead," she explained.

Knoller declined to comment directly on the decision and much of what transpired during the hearing on orders from her attor-

ney but she said she wanted to clarify and reiterate her remorse and her sympathy for Whipple's partner, Sharon Smith.

"I've always understood Sharon's pain. How could you not," she said.

Knoller repeated much of what she's said in several interviews with the *B.A.R.* since the January 26, 2001 mauling. She said that contrary to reports repeated in the media, she never in any way blamed Whipple for her death. She explained that the letter written by her husband, Robert Noel, to San Francisco District Attorney Terence Hallinan about Whipple's death attempted to explain, not excuse the attack.

Knoller said she was very concerned about Whipple after the attack. She explained that she didn't ask about Whipple immediately after the mauling because she was in a state of shock herself and could clearly see that Whipple was critically hurt. Later, she said she tried to ask about Whipple's condition when she went to San Fran-

cisco General Hospital to get treatment for her own wounds, but she was advised to not go in the hospital by a neighbor who was concerned that her presence could inflame an already tense situation.

In earlier interviews, Noel told the *B.A.R.* that he is also very sorry for the attack. He said that as time passed, he didn't think his apology to Sharon Smith or Whipple's mother would be welcome because of the negative things they were saying about him and his wife in the media.

Noel was transferred from San Francisco County Jail to state prison immediately after he was sentenced. He's currently being held in the Deuel Vocational Center in Tracy, about 70 miles east of San Francisco. He's expected to be assigned to another prison where he'll serve out the remainder of his term, expected to be just over a year. Knoller will remain in San Francisco County Jail at least until her scheduled sentencing July 15. ▼

Knoller murder

◀ page 1

at this juncture, just to let it all go seemed very inequitable to me."

Whipple-Kelly spoke to the *B.A.R.* by telephone from her home in Connecticut. Although she attended the trial in Los Angeles, she said she couldn't attend the sentencing because she needed to care for her ailing father.

"I didn't understand why the judge didn't say something before, why all of a sudden he got swayed by the motion of [appellate attorney Dennis Riordan], I don't know what other issues are involved but I think he's trying to take a cop-out because he doesn't want to be overturned in the appellate court. I'm surprised because he seemed very fair in the trial."

Before handing down the decision, Warren spent about 45 minutes berating Noel and Knoller, calling them despicable liars.

Warren made what quickly became the most quoted line from the hearing: "I believe unfortunately Mr. Noel and Ms. Knoller, that you are the most despised couple in this city. I don't believe that anybody likes you."

Warren reinforced the prosecution argument that the attorney couple had ample prior warning that the dogs were dangerous but

did nothing to mitigate the danger.

"They brushed off everything," the judge said. "They thumbed their nose at everything."

"Their conduct from the time they got the dogs till the weeks after Diane Whipple's death was despicable."

Warren said that he had to make his ruling based on the law and not on public sentiment or his own opinion. Just before he ruled that the evidence against Knoller did not support a second-degree murder conviction, Warren said that the only time he believed Knoller was when she said on the witness stand that she had no idea that her dog "could do what he did."

Warren delayed sentencing for Knoller until July 15 to give prosecutors an opportunity to prepare their motion to ask that he reconsider his decision. He sentenced Noel to four years, the maximum for involuntary manslaughter. With credit for time served and good behavior, Noel is expected to be paroled in a little over a year.

The most emotional part of the hearing came just before Noel's sentencing when friends and family of the victim were allowed to speak.

Sarah Miller, Whipple's former colleague at St. Mary's College where Whipple coached the

women's lacrosse team, sobbed as she told Warren that she was "in absolute shock" by his decision.

"I want to understand how a grand jury and a jury down in L.A. that is unbiased says second-degree murder and you take it away," Miller said. "What is the point of having a jury trial?"

Janet Batchelder, Smith's sister, said she was struck by the couple's lack of remorse and questioned why they never apologized to Smith.

"Diane would be alive today if those people had not brought those dogs to live in San Francisco," Batchelder said. "But you did and because of it, you killed her."

Smith began her statement by protesting Warren's decision.

"I just stood up from a juror's chair and I'm wondering what value that seat really has," she said referring to Warren's disregard of the jury's verdict.

"You were too busy being lawyers to be human," a tearful Smith said, referring to the couple's lack of remorse.

Outside court, lead prosecutor Jim Hammer told reporters: "To say we're disappointed is an understatement." He noted that Knoller's indictment for second-degree murder was handed down by a grand jury.

Hammer read from a state-

next page ▶

OBITUARIES

Poet June Jordan dies at 65

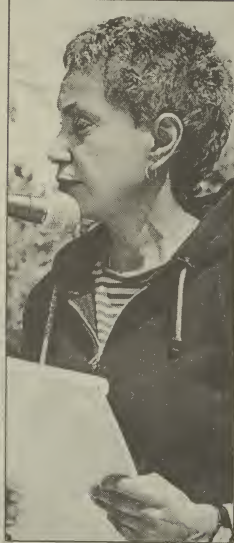
by Liz Highleyman

Award-winning poet and activist June Jordan, one of the world's most celebrated black women writers, died on June 14 following a long struggle with breast cancer. Ms. Jordan died at her home in Berkeley. She was 65.

One of the most widely published African Americans writers, Ms. Jordan published nearly 30 books, including 10 books of poetry, five essay collections, and several works of children's fiction. Her most recent book, *Soldier: A Poet's Childhood*, was published in 2000. Her work appeared in numerous anthologies and she wrote a regular column for *The Progressive* magazine.

Although best known as a poet, she also gained a following for her incisive essays, in which she often drew on her personal experiences to shed light on social and political issues such as civil rights, race, and bisexuality.

In "A New Politics of Sexuality," an essay from the early 1990s, Ms. Jordan wrote, "If you are free, you are not predictable and you are not controllable. To my mind that is the keenly positive, politicizing significance of bisexual affirmation ... to insist upon the



June Jordan

equal validity of all of the components of social/sexual complexity."

Ms. Jordan—who believed that writing was a political act—was a vocal supporter of many progressive causes. A longtime peace ac-

tivist, she spoke at an anti-war rally in Berkeley last September. Said lesbian writer Adrienne Rich, a friend of Ms. Jordan's, "She had an extraordinary sense of language. I believe she felt that she should use it wherever it was called for."

Ms. Jordan's many awards include a Rockefeller Foundation grant, a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, and recognition from the U.S. Congress and the United Nations.

Ms. Jordan was born in New York City in 1936, to West Indian immigrant parents. By the age of 7, she was already writing poetry. She attended Barnard College in the 1950s. She was married to Michael Meyer for 10 years and the couple had one son, Christopher.

Ms. Jordan had a passion for teaching others to write. Over the course of her career she taught at the City College of New York, Yale University, Sarah Lawrence College, and the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

In 1989 she was appointed professor of American studies at the University of California at Berkeley. She also founded and directed "Poetry for the People," a program exploring the links between poetry and political empowerment. ▼

Clotilde Merle



June 6th 2002 in San Francisco. A beautiful lady and friend to the community who was a major contributor to the HIV Family Room at the former Davies Medical Center. She was a quiet benefactor to

local AIDS organizations and saw to it that this generosity would continue after her death. Clo spent many years volunteering but found the niche she really loved in the Gazebo at Davies. Her friends celebrate eighty-eight years of a truly wonderful life.



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Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization – and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

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Lesbian health conference next weekend

by Liz Highleyman

Healthy Choices for Lesbians, the second annual conference on lesbian health research, will take place Saturday, June 29, giving women an opportunity to focus on their own health and well-being during the busy Pride weekend.

The conference will feature the annual State of Lesbian Health update presentation by Drs. Patricia Robertson and Suzanne Dibble, founders of the National Center for Lesbian Health Research at the University of California at San Francisco.

Lesbian health activists, clinicians, and researchers will present interactive sessions on a variety of topics including nutrition and fitness, lesbian parenting, dealing

with depression, complementary therapies, risk reduction, coming out and family acceptance, challenges facing young queer women, and healthy aging after 60. Health disparities affecting lesbians of color are a key focus of this year's conference. Several community groups will have tables with information at the site.

Healthy Choices for Lesbians is aimed at anyone interested in queer women's health issues, from practitioners, researchers, and policy-makers, to lesbian, bisexual, and transgender women themselves. All are welcome.

The weekend will kick off with a networking reception on Friday evening and a viewing of *Radical Harmonies*, a history of lesbian music, at the Castro Theater. The conference itself will take place at the UCSF Laurel Heights Cam-

pus, 3333 California Street, on Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; shuttles will be available to transport attendees to Dolores Park for the Dyke March that evening. The conference cost is \$50; some scholarships and volunteer opportunities are available.

In addition to the National Center for Lesbian Health Research, Healthy Choices for Lesbians is sponsored by the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association, Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services, the San Francisco Department of Public Health, and UCSF's Center for Excellence in Women's Health and Center for Gender Equity, as well as a host of community organizations. ▼

For more info or to register, visit www.lesbianhealthinfo.org.

Knoller murder

◀ previous page

ment Warren made in open court at the conclusion of the prosecution's case when the judge addressed a motion to throw out the charges because there was not enough evidence to support them. At that time, Warren said all the elements for all three of the

crimes, including second-degree murder, were met.

"My question is: what changed from the close of our case until now?" Hammer said.

Back in court, an impassioned Hammer told Warren that he robbed everyone of a sense of justice.

Knoller's attorney, Dennis Riordan couldn't attend the hearing because he was in France, accord-

ing to his two associates, attorneys Don Horgan and Dylan Schaffer.

"It was clearly a difficult and courageous decision," Horgan told reporters outside court. "It was also absolutely the right decision under relevant facts of the law."

Knoller's former attorney, Nedra Ruiz, told reporters that she felt vindicated by Warren's decision and she called Knoller "a wonderful woman." ▼

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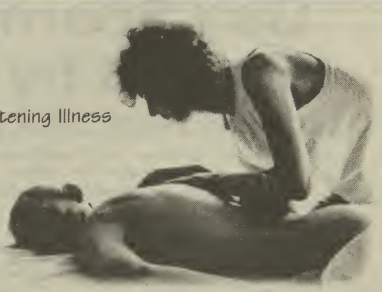
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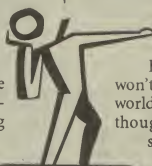
by Jim Provenzano

With all the boats in the bay on a sunny weekend, it should be no surprise that gay and lesbian boating enthusiasts run some of those rigs.

Katharine Holland, a Realtor with Caldwell Banker, is one of the founders of the San Francisco Sailing Team, who, along with Kip Darcy, decided to provide a social and sport group for GLBT sailing enthusiasts.

With 150 people from various countries signed up for sailing at Gay Games in Sydney this November, San Francisco has the largest contingent going, with 39 people in 13 teams of three. Among the other contenders are sailors from Sydney, the United Kingdom, and New York.

With a varied group of members who've sailed as teens, or competed nationally, the group ranges from working class folk, to a few affluent sailors who joyously won several bids for auctioned prizes at the recent Team San Francisco event at the LGBT Community Center.



Sports Complex

But visitors to Australia won't be sailing around the world in their own boats, although a few Bay Area sailors have done almost as much.

"When we get there, we're not gonna know which line to grab for like we were on that boat," said Holland, who noted that the Games will incorporate Elliot 5.9s, a New Zealand model not available in the U.S.

"We also won't know the particulars of Rushcutter's Bay, the event setting," she said. "But we talked to some sailors on a na-

tional level. They said, 'Don't worry. If you are a good sailor, you'll handle it.' Others say it'll be a big disadvantage if we don't know the wind or the current."

The team's edge includes world class sailor Karl Keesling as a coach. He's done treks from here to Tahiti, and sailed around the world a few times. "Karl is helping us focus on the psychology part of the sport," said Holland. "He's working with the team to move toward winning. It's been an amazing evolution."

Their other two coaches, Sallie Lang and Jan Crosbie-Taylor, spent the past year and a half getting them up to racing level.

"We have folks who haven't sailed since they were kids," said Holland. "They know enough to go around the marks. But there are a lot of savvy techniques to learn. We're learning more strategies, and have had seminars on new racing rules. We're moving up to a level on the same playing field, so we can feel comfortable on the boats."

Port of call

Without referees out in the water, competitive sailing is a combination of etiquette and daring. There are different ways to protest opponents' moves if they steer too close.

"You might give them room when you don't have to," said Holland. "When you're racing, you police each other and yourselves. This isn't like our weekly races; this is our one time. We're going all this way, so we want to make it count."

Not that the club is entirely about victory.

"We have over 100 people on our e-mail list," said Holland. "We've evolved into a social group, so anyone interested can join us for our parties and fundraisers. That's proven to be a benefit we hadn't thought about. It's brought these people out of the woodwork," particularly at what Holland called the "conservative yet welcoming" Corinthian Yacht Club, where the group rents boats for practices. Other practice venues include Lake Merritt and Cal Sailing in Berkeley.

Practices include what she called a "chalk talk," where coaches outline strategies and rules in a class. "Then we do drills, like racing starts, tacking jibing, 360s and other moves you have to do quickly."

"A lot of us do get out on the bay, but on larger boats," she said. "There are small craft warnings on the bay all the time. The smallest boats are about 20 feet. We hope to put that in our last phase of competition. The focus is on getting people at the helm, as a skipper as opposed to being crew."

One advantage SF's team has is San Francisco's flippant weather.



For sail: The SF Sailing Team is nautical and nice.

"If you can sail here, you can sail anywhere," said Holland. "In summer it's windy, and in winter it's calmer."

Despite the perception of affluence in sailing, some people need help for expenses, as well as renting boats for practices, thus the upcoming fundraiser this Saturday (see below), where their social events serve a dual purpose.

Once and again

Cynthia Beck grew up in the Bay Area, and sailed and raced on Lake Merritt as a kid with her father.

"We used to race on Lido 14s and an El Toro," she said. "We had a blast. It was local division group. We also went to regattas at different California lakes, held by regional sailing clubs."

Twenty years ago, she left San Francisco, and sailing, for work in Washington, D.C., where she only got out on Chesapeake Bay a few times.

After returning to the Bay Area, "I had to get back out on it." She found out about the sailing group through a women's e-mail group, and joined as soon as she could.

"It was great to meet some kindred spirits and get involved in the gay community after being away for so long," she said.

Since joining, she's begun searching for a boat of her own, but it hasn't been easy. "You don't get one overnight to find a slip."

In the meantime, preparing for Gay Games has "been a coming back to my own, my roots. There's something about sailors, a laid back exterior, but underneath,

there's a deep responsibility. We have a commonality in the way we look at things."

She isn't daunted by the prospect of using new boats. "I was raised on little boats, so there's a certain affinity of being able to step on one and know where things are. I feel confident ready."

After the Games, Beck plans to charter a 45 foot boat with some friends and sail up to the Great Barrier for a week of snorkeling and fun.

"It really pulled together people from different communities, it's really a major effort."

"We've gotten a lot of people back into sailing, who haven't since they were kids," said Holland. "We've made it accessible, and gotten them hooked on sailing. That's something we hope to continue post-Sydney."

Buddha on board

For Rajat Dutta, sea water might as well run through his veins. He sailed across the Pacific Ocean five years ago. "Out in the open ocean for 22 days, you don't see land," he said of his near-Perfect Storm experiences. "Thirty-foot walls of water, 11 days of storm and rain - things like that did happen to us."

Dutta started sailing as a youth in his home of Connecticut. He started racing on keelboats, and became an avid non-professional racer on 30-40 foot boats.

"This was intense team racing, the same team every week," said Dutta. "The Newport, New England sailing circuit is world class,

next page ►

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Soulforce

◀ page 12

it was ethnic intimidation."

The protests were organized by Soulforce, an organization that uses Gandhian tactics of non-violent resistance to fight discrimination against gays and lesbians in religious institutions.

"Religion is the source of the problem," said Soulforce founder Mel White. White, who was once a speech writer for fundamentalist Jerry Falwell, said that church teachings against homosexuality provide excuses and motivations for hate crimes and cause great pain for gay people brought up in religious settings.

Another of those arrested, Karen Weldin, who lives in Stigler, Oklahoma, said that when she came out to her Southern Baptist mother, her mother said, "You know, that's a sin against God."

"I had a younger sister come out too," Weldin said. "She had two children. My mother filed an emergency guardianship order to have the children removed because of my sister's sexual orientation in December 2000. She won."

"That was the last straw. My family rejected both my sister and me. She's told my sister and me that we're going to hell. We have turned against God and we are of the devil."

"The emotional trauma has just been horrendous," Weldin added. "She says she misses our relationship, but she's totally sincere in what she believes. What she did was a direct result of what's being taught in the Southern Baptist church."

The evangelical Protestant denomination, the largest in the U.S. with 16 million members and 44,000 churches in the country, has long held that homosexuality is sinful.

"We've got a war on our hands and we must be faithful to the fight," said Merritt, as he spoke at the convention about the church's condemnation of "the homosexual lifestyle."

The Southern Baptist Convention gets strong political support from the Bush administration. Merritt was invited to the White House to advise the president immediately after the September 11 attacks.

In his live remarks to the convention Bush said, "You and I share common commitments. We believe in fostering a culture of life, and that marriage and family are sacred institutions."

"The church is not the master or the servant of the state," Bush said, "but rather the conscience of the state."

Southern Baptist Convention officials did not return calls from the *Bay Area Reporter* regarding the protests. ▼

Gay Catholics

◀ page 12

conservative anti-gay organization, has been going from national talk show to national talk show. This has been the right-wing agenda, to keep the focus on sexual abuse as a gay issue," Duddy said.

Protesters from anti-gay Catholic groups marched in front of Dallas' Fairmont Hotel, where the meeting was held.

"It's just below the surface," said Soulforce's White. "They didn't want the public hew and cry. The homosexuality issue was a bag of worms for them. They're terrified of the issue. Those outspoken bishops who spoke out against homosexuality were causing them problems."

San Francisco Archbishop William Levada called for a study of the root causes of child abuse by priests that was ultimately in-

cluded in the charter. He said that many of the reasons offered so far have reflected "personal ideology" rather than "reality or a true understanding of Catholic teaching on sexuality."

Much of this speculation has centered on the generally accepted suggestion, put forward in Donald Cozzens's book, *The Changing Face of the Priesthood*, that fully half of the seminarians in the U.S. are gay. Many conservative critics have said that somehow this high incidence of homosexuality must be related to child abuse.

Others have pointed out that there is no direct link between homosexuality and child sexual abuse.

Kara Speltz, of Soulforce, and other critics have also said that the seminary was a "safe place to go and not have people question your sexuality."

She and others have pointed out that homosexuality and sexu-

al immaturity are linked in the seminary because of general persecution of gays in society. The seminary has been a refuge for some gay men, mainly brought up Catholic, who have not been able to come to terms with their own sexuality.

These sexually immature men who are taking a vow of celibacy are giving up something they haven't explored — a full and ordinary sex life, she said.

"But gay men are drawn to the helping professions," Speltz added.

White, who lives in Southern California, said that Los Angeles Cardinal Roger Mahony, facing a shortage of priests and nuns, "can't make it without his gay priests. 'Gay priest' is almost a redundancy down here."

"We know that these gay priests are as chaste and holy as anybody," White said. "But they need to find a fall guy. It's the old politics of blame." ▼

Sports Complex

◀ previous page

very competitive."

"Sailing's always been a real passion in my life," he said. "It's an intellectual sport as well as a physical one. There's an infinite amount you can learn, from Mother Nature, currents, or mechanical aspects; how you trim the sail, harnessing nature. It's thrilling and different every time as conditions change."

In San Francisco, with weather shifting quickly, Dutta said, "One has to be experienced, or be with a crew who can tell what to do."

After moving to California almost five years ago, the marketing consultant didn't join the sailing circuit at first.

"On the East Coast, there were no gay sailing opportunities, and I wasn't out then," he said. "Learning that Katharine had organized a gay group, I was beside myself with excitement."

When Dutta recently sailed from San Francisco to San Diego with friends on a pleasure cruise, it fortunately didn't turn into a gay version of *Gilligan's Island*, but he said, "We were so challenged by the elements, but it was amazing. Beautiful schools of dolphins sailed with us for hours. Experiencing sailing in an environment with people you can relate to 100 percent brought it so many steps forward."

Compared to his nautical exploits, Dutta isn't as worried about the Sydney challenge. A few years ago he sailed in Sydney Harbor on the boats that will be used in com-

petition.

"Having been so competitive, I'm not intimidated by that part," he said. "And the people of Sydney are wonderful."

Dutta's love of sailing extends beyond the fun of gay sports and into the spiritual realm.

He confessed to being "infatuated with the concept of infinity. As a Buddhist, I really feel in touch with the elements. I feel the Earth as a continuous sphere, just endless layers of silky floating water. No matter how fast you go, it continues. It's invigorating, to life, to the spirit."

Having visited down under for Mardi Gras, Dutta is looking forward to a trip that doesn't focus exclusively on the more hedonistic aspects of gay culture.

"There's a whole new vibe," he said. "Now I can go back and enjoy it in a new way. It'll be great to be there in a positive outlet, to be in touch with our bodies, our minds and our community."

Sailor's waltz

Meet the stellar crew of lesbian and gay sailors, and donate to their trip to Sydney at the Smooth Sailing Dance, with swing, Motown, and country tunes to get you dancing, with DJ Bea Morris. The benefit party is Saturday June 22, from 8-11 p.m. at First Unitarian Church, 685 14th Street, in Oakland. Admission is \$10. For more information, call Holland at (415) 665-8572 or e-mail khsf1@hotmail.com; call Darcy at (415) 621-1728 or e-mail kpidarcy@aol.com; or visit www.sfsailingteam.com.

Pride sports recap

Pooped out on parades? Silly circuit parties? Get sporty next week!

• SF Frontrunners 23rd annual Pride Run, June 29 at Golden Gate Park's Stow Lake Boathouse at 9 a.m. Events include a 5K run (3.1 miles), 5K walk (3.1 miles), 10K run (6.2 miles), and a wheelchair division. For more info, visit www.sffrontrunners.org.

• Skate Out 2002, at Yerba Buena Ice Skating Center, June 29, 5-8 p.m. Fabulous figure skating routines by GLBT skaters, with a special appearance by "Michelle Kwan!" For info, visit www.32degreesmagazine.com/skateout.html or e-mail goickeskat@aol.com.

• Mark Kendall Bingham Cup, June 28-29, at the Polo Fields in Golden Gate Park. Teams from London, Manchester (England), Buenos Aires, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, Seattle, and New York will compete, as well as individual players from Australia, New Zealand, Chicago, Toronto, and Switzerland. San Francisco's Fog Rugby will host. For information, visit www.sffog.org or call (415) 297-8163.

Talk the talk

Going to Sydney as a sports participant? Multi-medalist or total rookie? Your story deserves a mention. Pop a note to jimprov@yahoo.com (the jimprov@hotmail.com is just too spammy). ▼

Sail or surf for sporty stuff at www.sportscomplex.org.

LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE 258004

The following person(s) are doing business as: California State Funding Group. 767 Panorama Drive, San Francisco, Ca. 94131. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Pamela Camarre, President. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/28/2002.

JUNE 6, 13, 20, 27, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 257998

The following person(s) are doing business as: Healthcare Supply Chain Solutions. 3338 17th Street #208, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed John Houston Cunningham. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/28/2002.

JUNE 6, 13, 20, 27, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 258006

The following person(s) are doing business as: J. Mermat Associates. #8 Santa Barbara Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jay Mermat. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 28, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/28/2002.

JUNE 6, 13, 20, 27, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 258049

The following person(s) are doing business as: ChungDesign. 27 Riverfront Drive, San Francisco, Ca. 94132. This business is conducted by an individual signed Kenny Chung. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 29, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/29/2002.

JUNE 6, 13, 20, 27, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 258166

The following person(s) are doing business as: Squat & Gobble Cafe #4. 1 West Portal Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94127. This business is conducted by a limited liability company signed Issa Sweldan, managing member. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on June 3, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/03/2002.

JUNE 6, 13, 20, 27, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 257993

The following person(s) are doing business as: A Dog And A Duck, Distance From Here. 570 Arkansas Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual signed Joel J. Bosch. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 20, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/28/2002.

JUNE 6, 13, 20, 27, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 257496

The following person(s) are doing business as: Fun & Save. 27 Granada Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Robin Ng. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 7, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/07/2002.

JUNE 6, 13, 20, 27, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC-02-540296

In the Matter of the Application of Regina Dawn Hubbard For Change of Name. The application of Regina Dawn Hubbard for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Regina Dawn Hubbard has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Regina Dawn Leonard. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 1st day of August at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

JUNE 6, 13, 20, 27, 2002

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 256788

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Specialty Merchandise Distributor. Located at: 9 Apollon Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94124. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: April 11, 2002.

This business was conducted by: a

individual: Peter K. Lee.

JUNE 6, 13, 20, 27, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 258252

The following person(s) are doing business as: Suiress Trucking. 116 Clifford Terrace, San Francisco, Ca. 94117-4506. This business is conducted by an individual signed David A. Peckman. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/05/2002.

JUNE 13, 20, 27, JULY 3, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 258280

The following person(s) are doing business as: Suiress Trucking. 1099 23rd Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual signed Brendan John Bonnon. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on June 6, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/06/2002.

JUNE 13, 20, 27, JULY 3, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 258301

The following person(s) are doing business as: Brian Chen Jewelry Mfg. 760 Market Street Suite 949, San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by an individual signed Brian X. Chen. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on April 13, 1988. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/07/2002.

JUNE 13, 20, 27, JULY 3, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 258260

The following person(s) are doing business as: She-a & He-a, Out With The Girls. 137 Crown Court. #6, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Shannon Craine. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on April 05, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/05/2002.

JUNE 13, 20, 27, JULY 3, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 258351

The following person(s) are doing business as: Delicious Records, 584 Castro Street, #370, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed David Mahr. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on June 01, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/10/2002.

JUNE 13, 20, 27, JULY 3, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 258279

The following person(s) are doing business as: Offbeat On Haight. 1599 A Haight Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Bassem R. Sirhed. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/06/2002.

JUNE 13, 20, 27, JULY 3, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 258176

The following person(s) are doing business as: Royal Ground Coffee. 2060 Fillmore Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94115. This business is conducted by an individual signed John Z. Rucker. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/03/2002.

JUNE 20, 27, JULY 3, 11, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 258175

The following person(s) are doing business as: Wash N Royal. 2066 Fillmore Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94115. This business is conducted by an individual signed John Z. Rucker. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/03/2002.

JUNE 20, 27, JULY 3, 11, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 258380

The following person(s) are doing business as: San Miguel Restaurant #2. 3263 Mission Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Juana Gomez. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/11/2002.

JUNE 20, 27, JULY 3, 11, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 258507

The following person(s) are doing business as: Cism Entertainment And Production. 1419 Quesada Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by co-partners signed Gregory L. Griffin and Carl E. Gardner. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on June 14, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/14/2002.

JUNE 20, 27, JULY 3, 11, 2002

BAY AREA REPORTER CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICES

City and County of San Francisco



THE SAN FRANCISCO CITY CLINIC

City Clinic provides free or low cost, confidential, comprehensive sexually transmitted disease diagnostic and treatment services for anyone 12 years of age or older. The Clinic is located at 356 7th Street, between Folsom and Harrison Streets, and is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Tuesday from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m., and Thursday from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. The telephone number is (415) 487-5500.

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

The Redevelopment Agency of the City and County of San Francisco is seeking professional consultant services to assist the Redevelopment Agency and Planning Department in the preparation of a Design for Development document for the proposed Transbay Redevelopment Project Area, an area of approximately 16 blocks located immediately southeast of the City's Financial District in the eastern portion of the South of Market neighborhood. The Design for Development document will provide a set of design guidelines for new high density development in an area, while addressing broader urban development issues such as land use, urban design, redevelopment, and real estate economics. The centerpiece of the area will be a new multi-modal transit terminal that will occupy portions of four blocks at the northern edge of the project area. (The terminal design will be the subject of a process to be carried out under the Transbay Terminal Joint Powers Authority at a subsequent date.)

A statement of interest and qualifications for these services is invited from firms with a background and experience in land use planning, urban design, architecture, landscape architecture and open space design, transportation planning, real estate economics, public facilitation and related fields. Prospective consultants should offer a full range of technical services to be performed by key staff, experienced in community planning and urban design problems, as well as support staff capable of a complete range of production services. Prospective applicants should note that the Agency remains committed to equal opportunity in contracting and employment.

A pre-submission conference will be held in the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency office at 770 Golden Gate Avenue in the Third Floor Commission Board Room at 3 p.m. on Friday, June 28, 2002. The deadline for submission of a Statement of Qualifications is 3:00 p.m., Pacific Daylight Savings Time July 29, 2002. Interviews of certain consulting teams will occur in August, 2002, and the selection of a consulting team is scheduled for September, 2002. Prior to submitting qualifications, firms must obtain a complete RFQ packet (which includes exhibits B, C & D) from Debbie Davis at (415) 749-2432 (phone) or 749-2526 (fax). Questions concerning the RFQ may be addressed to David Habert, Senior Planner, at (415) 749-2439, or email: david_habert@ci.sf.ca.us.

ANIMAL CRUELTY IS A CRIME

San Francisco Animal Care and Control is responsible for the enforcement of all state and local animal control and welfare laws. If you see an animal being abused or neglected, or witness illegal activity involving animals, please call us at 554-9400 immediately.

The City and County of San Francisco encourages public outreach. Articles are translated into several languages to provide better public access. The newspaper makes every effort to translate the articles of general interest correctly. No liability is assumed by the City and County of San Francisco or the newspapers for errors and omissions.

STATEMENT FILE 257961

The following person(s) are doing business as: Doctor Diesel Truck Sales, 401 Terry Francis Blvd. #132, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual signed Mark Anthony Armstrong. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/23/2002.

JUNE 20, 27, JULY 3, 11, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC-02-540289

In the Matter of the Application of Ronald David Stinnett. For change of Name. The application of Ronald David Stinnett for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Ronald David Stinnett has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to David Starlight. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 23rd day of July at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

JUNE 6, 13, 20, 27, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 258572

The following person(s) are doing business as: Geneva Jacuzzi And Tanning, 974 Geneva Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Thuy Tran. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on June 13, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/17/2002.

JUNE 20, 27, JULY 3, 11, 2002

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE

To Whom It May Concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is: Lee Stephanie Ann. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverages Control at: 185 Berry Street, suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 1390 California Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. Type of license Applied for:

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JUNE 20, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 02-540321

In the Matter of the Application of Frederick Bernard Sims. For change of Name. The application of Frederick Bernard Sims for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Frederick Bernard Sims, has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Frederick Freedom Bernard Sims. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 19th day of August, 2002, at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

JUNE 20, 27, JULY 3, 11, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 02-540315

In the Matter of the Application of Aaron Dean Beierschmitt. For change of Name. The application of Aaron Dean Beierschmitt for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Aaron Dean Beierschmitt, has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Aaron Dean Toomey. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 13th day of August, 2002, at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

JUNE 20, 27, JULY 3, 11, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 258045

The following person(s) are doing business as: Ailion Finance, 44 Montgomery Street, Ste. #2310, San Francisco, Ca. 94104. This business is conducted by a limited liability company signed Diana R. Karabelas. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/29/2002.

JUNE 20, 27, JULY 3, 11, 2002

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E26

JOBS OFFERED

Position announcement Program Manager

The Living Center is a new contract from the County of Santa Clara and is envisioned as a peer-driven drop-in HIV/AIDS program and facility. The contractor, Positive Resources of Santa Clara County, seeks a full-time Program Manager who will establish and manage the Living Center facility and programs, and has the ability to particularly focus on the needs of ethnic populations and the needs of women.

Job Summary. The Program Manager will establish and manage a facility that is a safe and supportive environment for persons living with HIV/AIDS, and provides direct services such as support groups and peer counseling as well as programs designed to increase accessibility to existing HIV services in Santa Clara County. The Program Manager must be able to focus on the needs of ethnic populations and the needs of women, both of who have special concerns relating to accessibility and other barriers to services. In recognition of the fact that the majority of HIV infected people in Santa Clara County are gay men, the Program Manager will work closely with the local Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered community to make sure their specific needs and concerns are met. Substantive experience with HIV/AIDS issues is necessary. The Program Manager will report to the President of the Board of Directors.

Job Responsibilities. The Program Manager will be responsible for:

- Identifying and developing programming to meet the needs of underserved populations within the HIV/AIDS community of Santa Clara County.
- Collaborating with other agencies to establish and maintain memorandums of understanding (MOUs)
- Hiring, training, and supervision of a half-time Volunteer Coordinator
- Creating an office dedicated to out-stationed agencies with related infrastructure
- Complying with 100% of the Santa Clara County contract reporting requirements.
- Planning and encouraging involvement of clients in community forums, meetings, and surveys.
- Budget monitoring, strategic planning, developing and managing interagency relationships and similar administrative functions.

Qualifications. The successful candidate will bring the following:

- Three to five years of relevant HIV/AIDS experience, and college degree or equivalent managerial experience;
- Demonstrated commitment and leadership skills in health services
- Demonstrated ability to think strategically and creatively
- Proven ability to convene, organize, and sustain partnerships with other agencies
- Proven ability to move a project from conception to realization
- Excellent writing, and communication skills
- Ability and desire to work in a small, collegial, fluid organization.

How To Apply. Submit a letter of interest addressing the qualifications, three references, and resume to:

Charles L. Evans
Positive Resources of SCC
55 Glistening Court
Milpitas, CA, 95035-4345
charles@evansgroup.net (e-mail)

Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until position is filled. No phone calls, please. Positive Resources strongly encourages women, HIV+ persons, persons of color, those that are bilingual, and persons with disabilities to apply.

Revised May 22, 2002



RNs & LPTs

SF General Hospital (SFGH), a dynamic teaching facility, seeks RN/LPT staff for gay/lesbian focus psychiatric unit. New grad/re-entry training program available. Contact Feo Jacobsen at (415) 206-8318 for more information. Resumes to Sharon McCole-Wicher, RN, Nursing Supervisor, Psychiatry Dept., Room 7M10, SFGH, 1001 Potrero Ave., SF, CA 94110. www.dph.sf.ca.us

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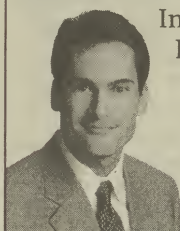


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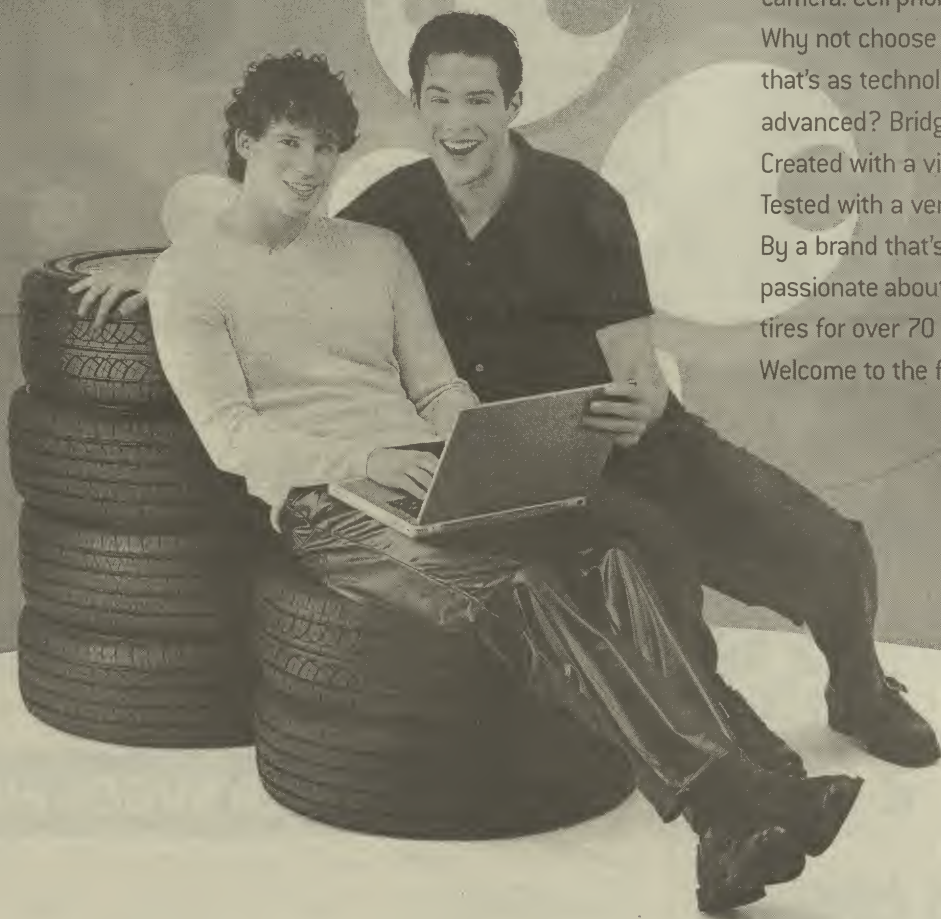


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Flavors of Falcon
Romps, Romance and
Not Romance in porn.
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Yorba Linda days
B.A.R. visits the Nixon
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page 36



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 32 • No. 25 • 20 June 2002

26th SF International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival features, week two

Gay lads and lasses

by David Lamble



1 Guardian of the Frontier Slovenian director Maja Weiss takes three lovely lasses on a canoe trip that exposes the pitfalls of following Bambi into the woods, explores the European love for the darkest parts of the forest, and reveals three female takes on sex, love and Fascism. Under Weiss' freewheeling, fantastic style, Alja, Zana and Simona become more than stick-figure archetypes of the romantic would-be writer, the bold lesbian temptress, and the cloyingly prudish Catholic schoolgirl. Weiss hints at why right-wing leaders find gay-bashing such an irresistible vice, mocks modernity's shrinking national borders and expanding human needs, but really offers a sumptuous adult fairy tale (like *Rosemary's Baby* in its humorously horrific take on sex and Satan), as finely filmed as *Deliverance*, but much more fun and far less judgmental. (Castro, 6/26)

2. The Business of Fancy Dancing Sherman Alexie's second film (he wrote the indie hit *Smoke Signals*) is a huge step up in style
page 37 ►

A scene from
British filmmakers
Neil Hunter and
Tom Hunsinger's
The Lawless Heart

Musings by Glasstown's Michael Mullen and Adam Klein

Rock with brains

by Mark Mardon

Michael Mullen and Adam Klein of Glasstown



The smartest and probably best art-rock band in San Francisco, Glasstown (soon to become The Guilded Age), is fronted by two gay guys in their forties, vocalist Adam Klein (40) and keyboardist Michael Mullen (43), a pair of brainy poet musicians who have received far too little recognition in their own town, even as they and their band make it big in Europe.

We're sitting on the grungy floor of the band's cramped rehearsal studio in the Tenderloin, and though the door to the graffiti-adorned basement hallway is closed, the punkish rock band in the studio across the way can be heard all too clearly.

"We've written some of our most delicate ballads with the most horrendous music playing in the background," shouts Mullen above the din.

"Eventually they'll wear themselves out," Klein shrugs. "We used to have a band next door named Tar Crash, which was as you can imagine with its heroin-themed name, but they felt no pain as they inflicted pain on everyone else. They would just bash at their guitars and scream for hours. We had that right next door while we wrote a lot of this record."

He's referring to the album *Together Now* by Roman Evening (Bitter Stag Records), the Klein/Mullen side-project which, unlike Glasstown/The Guilded Age, is focused primarily on studio recording rather than live performance. It's an intricately textured rock-

page 33 ►

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by Roberto Friedman
and Sam Francisco

The thrill was back last week for the opening night of the 26th SF International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival. Comedian/goddess **Margaret Cho** was in the house at the Herbst for the screening of *Notorious C.H.O.*, taking the stage to raucous cheers. To those who marvel that she still hasn't found her G-spot, Cho protested, "I don't have a cavernous pussy!"



Cho goes for broke.

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Nascent icon **Notorious** scored big points imagining what it would be like if straight men menstruated: "Yo dude, it's my heavy flow day!" And what if gay men got their period — until she remembered that, oh right, they already do.

The film was a lot of raunchy fun, which made it all the more amazing that the irrepressible **Mommy** ("What is Ass Master?") and **Daddy** ("Daddy no gay!") were in the audience. Crowds from *C.H.O.* merged tastefully (well, it was tight) with the Castro audience from **Stanley Kwan's** arty *Lan Yu* in the glamorous Green Room, with its Beaux Arts balcony and view of City Hall.

A small group of gay choraleists gathered 'round the piano to sing **Queen's** "Bohemian Rhapsody." Holding court in her dirndl was art-scene veteran **Rodney O'Neil Austin**, who had done such a knock-up job from stage following the bouncing ball along with **Jeanette MacDonald** in director **Georgina Corzine's** *Sing Along San Francisco*. In all, a rousing kick-off to what promises to be a celluloid smorgasbord. Frameline reports some sell-outs, but mostly the prospect of very full houses, so it's never too late to check out the sched. www.frame-line.org/festival

Lan Yu gets its US theatrical premiere starting July 3 at the Castro Theatre. *Notorious C.H.O.* opens in theatres the same day.

Rabbit, run

Isn't this the time of year when big-name queers descend upon our little burg like locusts in a plague? No less a queer icon than NYC dragster **Lady Bunny** flies into SF to host Trannyshack on Tuesday, June 25. The 24-carrot lady is best-known as creator and hostess of erstwhile NYC drag fest Wigstock, but she also has a fairly extensive filmography, including *To Wong Foo...* and cult film *Party Girl*.

Add classic Trannyshack hostess **Heklinia**, door dish **Miss Chocolate**, and DJ **Pinky Ring** spinning tunes, and you've got the makings for a fab welcome for the Lady Bun. T'shackle at the Stud, 399 9th St. Doors 10 p.m., show Midnight, cover \$8.

Brazil nuts

Some people are veritable hot-house flowers. *Rare and Common-place Flowers* (by **Carmen L. Oliveira**; Rutgers University Press) tells the story of the lesbian romance between American poet **Elizabeth Bishop** and Brazilian architect **Lota de Macedo Soares**. Bishop met Soares on what was intended to be a brief visit to Rio de Janeiro, and wound up staying 12 romantic years.

Soares was an assertive woman, suggesting herself as the successor to the state's Governor, in a letter to him. If given power, she promised to finish all of his pet projects "except for those that don't please me," and to replace his statues of thin women with fat ones. Soares was herself a big-boned gal. Bishop evidently liked that, and was willing to overlook Soares' wealthy family's rather unappealing right-wing politics.

Morse code

We're glad the *BAR* furnishes fabulous headlines to stoke the musings of *SF Chronicle* p.2 columnist **Rob Morse**. The top item in Morse's June 12 column riffed off a front-page headline from the June 6 *BAR*, "LGBT

'crips' launch their own movement for gay rights." It's clear from the outset that it's a term self-chosen by a group of lesbian and gay activists in wheelchairs.

"But if I write 'queer crips' without the quotation marks," Morse whines, "I'd get picketed and probably fired."

We're not quite sure what's got Rob's knickers all a-twist, as the queer community has a long history of inclusion with the differently abled. OT prefers to think of it this way: we're all temporarily abled.

Rock 'n' bowl

Looks like the deal's been inked to open the SF stage production of *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* at the Victoria Theatre in October '02. Rights to the off-Broadway show which became **John Cameron Mitchell's** fabulous film have been signed and paid for, and the "internationally ignored" rock singer **Hansel** is soon coming our way.

Apparently, rock stars have inner lives. At first, **David Bowie's** new *Heathen* (Sony) sounds like his post-9/11 statement. "Everything's changed," goes the opening refrain. The **Tony Visconti**-engineered atmospherics, the dark themes, Ziggy's late pass at retro-futurism. "Out in space, it's always 1982, a joke we always knew," he sings. Does that mean they're always playing *Let's Dance*?



Bowie: nonchalant about nukes.

Despite his dramatic lyrics, Bowie is apparently no alarmist about the state of the world. "I don't know what's going on, but I'm not afraid," he told German magazine *Der Spiegel*. "I'd rather be bugged by plans for a nuclear attack than by paparazzi."

Meantime, Matador has just released *Storytelling*, the **Belle & Sebastian** soundtrack to the **Todd Solondz** film of that name. "There we were, yoked up to the TV monitor with them big American Movie people cracking the whip," writes the Glaswegian band's **Stevie**. "Soon we were behaving like veteran hacks, composing '70s-style sitcom jingles on demand."

Only about six minutes of B&S made it onto film, but there's more on the CD, songs like "I Don't Want To Play Football," with its lyric, "I don't understand the thrill of running, catching, throwing." Taking orders from a moron! Grabbing for the sweaty crotches/ Getting hit by people I don't know."

That was our week. Taking in **Stravinsky's Firebird Suite** at the SF Symphony's magnificent Russian Festival, our guest **Pepi** fondly recalled his Pontiac Firebird Trans Am, which he rolled years ago on a Vegas freeway. ▼

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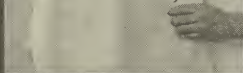
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'Butterfly' kisses

SFO's Puccini's weeper rates three hankies

by Stephanie von Buchau

I first heard *Madama Butterfly* at the San Francisco Opera in 1946. Licia Albanese was Cio-Cio-San and, for the next 23 years, she alternated with Dorothy Kirsten in emptying my tear ducts. Then, in less than a decade, these two formidable divas were superseded by Jeanette Pilou (she never did anything great but *Butterfly*; it was enough), Renata Scotto (arguably the best Cio-Cio-San in the last quarter of the 20th century) and the late Pilar Lorengar, who made me cry in Act I when she told Sharpless she was only 15. My sinuses were a wreck for a week afterward.

Then 23 more years passed until Sylvie Valayre dissolved me in SFO's so-called "Broadway" production. (Her conductor, Marco Armiliato, obviously felt the same way, nearly knocking her over with a bear hug at the final curtain.) Recently I was reflecting on 23-year spans between really emotional *Butterflies* — meaning I'd probably hear my next from the Parterre Box in the Sky — when the current San Francisco Opera season, staggering to the close of the Mansouri era, opened its current revival of Puccini's weeper. It reads a lot tamer on paper than it plays in the War Memorial. When the title-role soprano is matched with a sympathetic conductor (as in Valayre and Armiliato), *Madama Butterfly* earns its three-hanky status.

Donald Runnicles is not usually a sympathetic or sentimental conductor. His Wagner is bracing, his Strauss propulsive, his Mozart muscular. The tenderness and pathos of Puccini's score, to say nothing of its erotic sensuousness, certainly eluded him when he conducted it for Catherine Malfitano in 1995. Yet Runnicles was a fully engaged partner on Sunday afternoon two weeks ago. Even though the pacing was deliberate, the tension never slackened, nor did he allow the orchestra to over-register, something easy to miscalculate with Puccini's still-insecure scoring technique. Rather than overpower the soprano at the climaxes ("Trionfa il mio amor," for instance) the orchestra seemed to push her voice into glowing prominence.

Combination plate

You could say that Miriam Gauci outsang the orchestra, but that simply isn't true. This was one of those cases where the combination of conductor and soprano was greater than the sum of their respective parts. Gauci is no spring chicken; she made her US debut as *Butterfly* in Santa Fe in 1987, and she wasn't an unknown then. Nor is her voice particularly distinctive. Yet it is even, musical, and used with both experience and more than a little magic.

She practices intense audience communication with very soft, tender singing. I was aware several times that people around me had virtually stopped breathing, so intent were they on following her. Then, when Puccini turns on the afterburner — this is an Italian opera, not a Japanese folk tale — the tiny Gauci (she can't be much over five feet tall) lets fly



Lt. B.F. Pinkerton (Zoran Todorovich) and Cio-Cio-San (Miriam Gauci)

with perfectly-tuned, vibrant, soaring high notes. The result is a complete spectrum of the character — impetuous, brave, modest, foolish, even humorous — all expressed through the voice.

Yet she can act, too, with minimal, feminine gestures. This is the art that conceals art and is the product of hard work, deep thinking and utter professionalism. Keeping your voice and figure in fighting trim is no negligible part of that art. I know Pamela Rosenberg has said no *Manon Lescaut* in our future because she can't find a production she likes — and the tenor is the difficult part in that opera, anyway — but boy, would I love to hear Gauci sing *Manon* before it is too late.

The supporting cast did nothing to spoil the diva's party. Zheng Cao sings a concerned Suzuki, though she might learn something from Gauci about minimal gestures. Zoran Todorovich looked like George W. Bush 10 years ago, a stolid mid-American guy with international appetites and parochial values. His virile but colorless tenor is fine up to Pinkerton's very top notes, which he tended to bleat and sing under the pitch. David Okerlund was born to sing supporting roles like Sharpless, rather than romantic leads like Don Giovanni, and I don't mean that as an insult. Kyu Won Han was an uncommonly appealing Yamadori. (I'd have married him on the spot.)

Michael Yeargan's set remains handsome, though the perspective is cockeyed. Is Nagasaki harbor in the audience, where *Butterfly* spies the *nave da guerra* returning to port? Or is it behind the house, where the ship looms suddenly during the vigil? It's a great visual idea, just not thought out all the way through. Director Ron Daniels' introduction of Pinkerton's ugly iron bed into the shoji-screened house is too cruel (and unnecessary) an anti-American statement. However, when Suzuki wrapped the flag around the most adorably responsive little Trouble I've ever seen (Kalina Simeonova), the post-September 11 moment was almost unbearable. This *Madama Butterfly* is a tragedy for everybody except the audience. ▼

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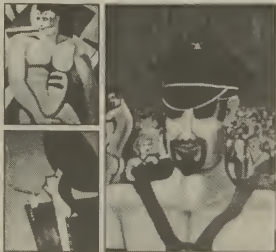
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— Richard Labonte, *Book Marks*, April 2002

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Caviar at Davies Hall

SF Symphony's Russian Fest delights

by Philip Campbell

The San Francisco Symphony's Russian Festival opened last week with a symposium hosted by music historian Harlow Robinson and SFS Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas. It was a pleasantly informal start to what promises to be a most stimulating series.

The official opening, one night later, was an altogether splashier affair, with the full orchestra and MTT giving their all to an enthusiastic sell-out crowd. The symposium, *The World of Russian Music*, played to a more intimate audience.

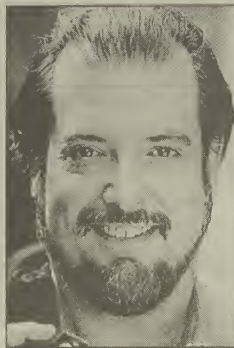
Both evenings gave great pleasure, but the relaxed atmosphere and enlightening anecdotes of the seminar/chamber concert really got the ball rolling. Guest soloists, including members of the SFS, performed excerpts and several full selections from Russian composers. They also discussed their own insights into the music. The consensus seemed to be you don't have to be Russian, but it helps.

Of course, no one can provide better anecdotes than MTT. He turned his segment into a brilliantly witty monologue. His presentation was also incisively educational, but that should be no surprise by now.

As a boy of 14, he played the piano for visiting composer Dmitri Shostakovich in Southern California. Describing the pinched and neurotic body language of the Soviet closet dissident, Tilson Thomas demonstrated how he smoked with three fingers and an upturned palm. The more effusive and international composer Balakirev once said the Russian aristocrat smoked this way, while the peasantry also used three fingers, but an overturned palm — to keep the snow off the cigarette.

MTT's impressive gift as a storyteller lies in that amusing tale. The history of the Russian class struggle and the miserable toll Stalinism took on artists of the era, all in one passing remark!

Earlier in the evening, Stephen Prutsman played two excerpts from Stravinsky's piano reduction



Pianist Garrick Ohlsson: agile

of excerpts from *Petrushka*. His playing was a little muddy, but impressive nonetheless. Mezzo-soprano Susanna Poretzky partnered with pianist Peter Grunberg for two songs by Mussorgsky and Shostakovich's "Poet and Tsar," from *Six Poems of Marina Tsvetayeva*. They made a handsome

Glazunov's Violin Concerto. After initial disappointment at hearing the warhorse instead of the less familiar concerto, I settled in with the enthusiastic crowd for Ohlsson's surprisingly subtle rendition of Rachmaninoff's *tour de force*.

The pianist displayed his characteristic strength in the big moments, but he also showed tenderness in the gloriously melodic variations, and breathtaking agility in the passagework. He got a collective shout of approval from the audience that warranted and got an encore. Talk about stealing the show on short notice.

Balakirev's *Russia* opened the concert in rousing fashion, but it's not a memorable piece. The second half contained the real musical treats. The first SFS performances of Tcherpnin's *The Enchanted Kingdom* contrasted with Stravinsky's beloved *The Firebird Suite* (1919 version). The great impresario Serge Diaghilev commissioned both works on the same subject for his ballet company. Stravinsky's breakthrough

MTT demonstrated how Shostakovich smoked, with three fingers and an upturned palm.

and accomplished pair: a sympathetic, expert accompanist, and a rich-toned, involved soloist. Poretzky's acting ability compensated for a certain lack of depth in her voice. Still, she has an impressive instrument that betrays none of the vibrato or edge that could spoil songs of such character.

Full regalia

The following night, MTT and his musicians were in full concert regalia for a string of orchestral showpieces. There is always a sense of excitement when he is on the podium, but this was an especially festive event. Stalwart Garrick Ohlsson, a favorite of SFS audiences since his 1972 debut here, stepped in for violinist Elmar Oliveira at the last minute. Rachmaninoff's *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini* substituted for

piece made history. At the symposium, MTT revealed how Stravinsky had stolen shamelessly from Rimsky-Korsakov's *Mlada*, thus alienating that composer's family, but launching his own reputation.

The finale blew the roof off Davies Hall and earned another encore, the Polonaise from Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin*. The conductor prefaced the performance with yet another amusing aside. "Do you know what Tchaikovsky really wanted to be in his heart of hearts?" he asked. "No, it's not what you think. He wanted to be Italian!"

That allowed a plug for the composer's Suite No. 3, scheduled in concerts this week. Fearless Leader knows his business, and he supplies the goods. All summer festivals should be this musically satisfying and fun. ▼

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SPECTACLE

Going gangbusters

'Viva Variety' hits 'em in the funnybone

by Mark Mardon

And now let's all give a big warm hand for the grand showman of the night, the cavalier, dashing handsome, brashly charming ringleader of tonight's *Viva Variety* 25, the one, the only, Steve Murray!



Producer Steve Murray

[Loud audience applause, with lots of gay squeals mixed in.]

I'm tripping. That's not actually how *Viva Variety* 25 will open on Tuesday, June 25 at Fort Mason Center's Bayfront Theatre, but I can't help imagining it that way. Every time Steve Murray comes on stage to open another of his Cracker Jack variety shows — grab-bags of dance, sketch comedy, song, spoken-word, theatrics, flagging, contortionists and other confections — you expect his sidekick to introduce him as the band kicks in and the applause light goes blinkers.

This Murray guy's got *hutzpa*. He's a kind of a mad genius. I just can't help liking him in person, even though he's the kind of tenacious, never-let-go promoter who drives entertainment editors batty. Murray is both shameless and relentless in his efforts at self-promotion — *Viva Variety* is his baby, and Pops is mighty proud of his little darling — and that potentially toxic trait ends up being, oddly enough, part of Murray's charm and the show's.

The brilliance underpinning *Viva Variety*'s success is not in the superhype generated by Murray, a self-described "Ed Sullivan-style" producer who thinks every act he books is the most fabulous thing ever. What makes the shows work, always packing in an enthusiastic gay audience, is Murray's sharp eye for talent, his ceaseless energy, his spirit of generosity (every show is a benefit for some gay charity), his good rapport with artists, and the consistently fascinating mix of acts he comes up with. Not all of his acts hit their intended mark, and some downright flop, but even then the good-humored audience is forgiving, since most of the acts deliver the goods in spades. Murray says at \$20 a pop, *Viva Variety* is a good entertainment value, and dammit, he's right.

L'Eggs works

But is what Murray does all that unique? After all, talent showcasing is what Heklina does at Trannyshack every week, dragging out one madcap tranny act after another, letting them crash or soar as the fates decree. So why should I pay \$20 to see something similar at *Viva Variety*?

Because it rocks! And honestly it's entirely different, because it operates with a higher degree of professionalism. Peggy L'Eggs (Matthew Simmons), the one mainstay of the show apart from host Murray, is consistently brilliant in her comic drag characterizations. Whether she's a schoolmarmish teacher reading the children's story *Everyone Poops*, or a Kate Winslet-style character doing *Titanic*, decked out in a life-jacket and going down with the ship as she belts out Celine Dion's theme song, L'Eggs is a shining egg-sample of a drag superstar.

In the course of 24 shows,

Murray has shone a spotlight on many of this city's leading performers, offering audiences a Whitman's Sampler of who and what's out there. It's been great exposure for the likes of Jeffery Roberson as Varla Jean Merman; performance poet Marcus Rene Van; Mira, the Mongolian Contortionist; lyric soprano Don Tatiro; Chris March as a giant Shirley Temple, tapping with Matthew Martin; comic actor P.A. Cooley; the hilariously funny Bridget Schwartz; SF Ballet dancers Erik Wagner and Nicole Starbuck; Leigh Crow, Peter Fogel, and Connie Champagne of the Whoa Nellies; hip-hop dance troupe BODYslanguage; singer/songwriters Mark Weigle, Garrin Benfield, Holcombe Waller, Jallen Rix, and god-dess knows how many others who

ought to be listed here. The latest news is Murray plans on booking the hottest new rising talent in town, young songmeister Spencer Day.

Murray treats the audience with respect, which means placing strict limits on how long individual acts get to perform. Eight minutes per performer is the max, he says. "It's hit 'em, bang! Don't get 'em bored, and move on. Especially with spoken word, it's even less, just five minutes, because people lose patience with somebody who's reading." Nonetheless, he adds, "comedy I will give the benefit of the doubt. If they're going gangbusters and the audience is loving it, they can go on. I'll just give 'em a look and they'll wrap it up." ▼

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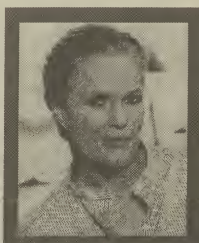
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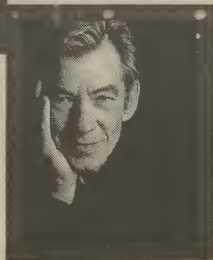
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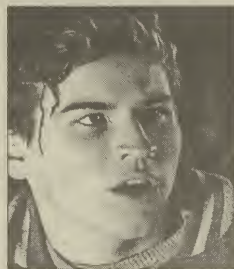
Selections from SFILGFF, week two

by David Lambie

Some recommended short films from the second week of the Frameline Festival:

1. Foucault Who? A man takes a truly wicked piss at a SoMa leather bar urinal, above which are appended the words, "I've been trying to do intellectual things that would attract beautiful boys." — Michel Foucault, philosopher (1926-1984). Jed Bell and Wickie Stamps' *Foucault Who?* is a cautionary tale about why it's not always such a good idea to bait your boy-trap with the words of dead French guys. Mixing a taste for Foucault with your standard Boystown serial-killer-on-the-prowl paranoia, adding a dash of techno-media mania, a whiff of the actual details involving celebrity gay killer Andrew Cunanan, and a bevy of still live SF pretty boys (Walter Delmar, Jeff

De Lucio-Brock, Jayson Matthews) make this caper a creepy crawly delight. The ubiquitous Leon Acord expertly plays a barfly so world-weary that we actually believe he could have bagged and banged Foucault. That this trophy fuck should give him an edge on a hardened (but not as well-read) ex-con is one of the great mysteries at the heart of this piece, whose realism is nicely enhanced by its real bar setting. (*Boys by the Bay*, Herbst, 6/27)



0 Beautiful: tormented.

2. 0 Beautiful/Like a Brother The mayhem is more than implied in two compelling films that depict the insidious influence of anti-gay violence in our lives. The national mania for patriotic anthems gets an ironic airing in Alan Brown's angsty thriller about two classmates in a cornfield. Branded "Fag Brad," a young boy is brutally beaten and abandoned, only to have one of his tormentors, Andy, return to make amends. "I'm in your Spanish class," purrs Andy, "we were in the Boy Scouts together." "You're not a good guy," insists Brad. What kind of bargain will Brad and Andy strike in order to face themselves and each other in the light of day? You'll never hear the opening stanza of "America the Beautiful" quite the same way again. In Alexandra Steele's *Like a Brother*, a nerdy 110-lb. weakling comes face to face with tender feelings for a hunky next-door neighbor who is tantalizingly close and yet unavailable. The results are predictably combustible. (*Come Out, Come Out*, Castro, 6/23)

3. Metalguru/Watching You The honors for the best damn dykes-on-bikes film at the Fest go hands down to Flavio Colker's *Metalguru*, a richly atmospheric modern-day Western set in the dusty backroads of a small Brazilian town. If you think Brazilians go crazy about the World Cup, watch what happens when two hot biker chicks burst into town and win the heart of a baby dyke who's got her hands on Mommy's money. Stephanie Abramovich's *Watching You* takes us on a voyeuristic trip through the eyes of an Israeli lesbian photographer caught up with the view of the straight lady next door. (*It's a Woman's World*, Castro, 6/24)

4. The Truth About Gay Sex If Martha Stewart were to give us a guide on what gay men do with each other, it could not be more stylish and artistically appealing than this splendid 50 minutes from British TV. The gimmick is asking straight folks what they think we do, and then providing well-illustrated answers. (Herbst, 6/28)

5. Contact Director Stephen

Remington provides a very personal look at a young man's anxieties as he awaits taking an HIV-test, with a nicely subjective camera, including some almost too-closeup looks at a man having his blood drawn. (BBB, Herbst, 6/27)

6. Transgressions Stuart Gaffney is a local treasure. For the past decade, Gaffney's film essays have dissected very personal issues. It doesn't get any more personal than putting yourself in-between your mother and father, imagining what this interracial couple saw in each other before they saw fit to create you. As usual, Gaffney's technique is to deconstruct found footage, while asserting a unique perspective on his Eurasian identity. "I am the product of interracial desire. Transgressive love is in my genes. Could [my parents] have thought that their transgressive love would produce another transgressive love in me?" (BBB, Herbst, 6/27)



Shut Up White Boy: a night out.

7. Shut Up White Boy A night out with his Asian girlfriend goes very badly for a loud-mouthed white boy who minds his MSG more than his manners, in this back-alley Asian dyke revenge drama. (Herbst, 6/25; *Girls by the Bay*, Herbst, 6/27)

8. Just Ryan GWM, 32, likes musical theatre, has a romantically checkered past and a hard time making up his mind. Director Ken Bielenberg carves comedy and drama out of the few minutes that elapse before Ryan makes a call that may change his future. Local actor Allen White, giving a beat-perfect take on a very late bloomer, heads up a talented cast. (BBB, Herbst, 6/27)



Backseat Detour: courageous.

9. Backseat Detour One of the most painful positions a queer child can occupy is the back seat of the family bus, with clueless parents in the front. Allie Sultan gives her dykette heroine the courage to be a backseat driver in this painfully amusing look at home for the holidays. (GBB, Herbst, 6/27)

10. Peach Fuzz A dyke shaves her fuzz in this sensual trip fueled by the blues. (GBB, Herbst, 6/27) ▼

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Reality bites

by Victoria A. Brownworth

Reality summer begins in earnest this week with a host of new reality shows which comprise the entirety of the new summer shows. If you want to see dramas, sitcoms and talk, be prepared for nothing but reruns of the old faves or go to cable for *Six Feet Under* and *The Wire*, because the networks are going reality, all the way.

From the camp perspective, the best new reality show is, of

course, on Fox. *American Idol* is *Star Search* without the talent. Based on the British series *Pop Idol* (remember when the only American TV that borrowed from the Brits was PBS?), 100 Madonna and 'N Sync wannabes strut their stuff before a panel of judges in the quest to become a new pop star. The final two will win a lucrative record contract.

Judges include singer Paula Abdul (who looks like she's done one too many botox treatments) and music execs Randy Jackson and Simon Cowell. Like all Fox re-

ality series, it's cruel and unusual, but even a saint would get caught out laughing and pointing at some of these characters. Tune in Tuesdays — and keep your day job.

ABC has some stellar reality series starting this week. *Houston Medical* "looks behind the mask" of a big-city hospital in much the same way ABC did last year with *Hopkins 24/7*. It's edgy and painful and gives a raw intro into the daily mechanics of medicine. *HM* is terrific, but will leave you praying for a long, healthy life.

State V does with the law what *HM* does with medicine — bisects and dissects it from a range of aspects. Good competition for and counterpoint to NBC's *Crime & Punishment*, produced by *Law & Order* franchise-holder Dick Wolf, which premiered Sunday. *HM* runs Tuesdays, *State V*, Wednesdays. These shows have the same character- and situation-driven power that last week's ABC series *Boston 24/7* had. That series, which the network should have made a weekly rather than nightly event, featured some dynamic portraits, including a lesbian cop (the best argument for queers on the force we could ever imagine: smart, savvy and very sensitive, called herself queer and battled the boys 'til they accepted her), a one-armed EMT (she was just as terrific as the cop), and a Latino victim advocate for domestic vio-

lence cases in the District Attorney's office. *Boston 24/7* is on video and worth renting if you missed the nightly airings.

ABC's *The Mole II* is winding down while CBS is revving for the third round of *Big Brother* in two weeks. Also on tap at CBS is *Military Diaries* for those who can't get enough patriotism, and at

NBC, *Dog Eat Dog* is exactly what one would imagine.

Final answer

The man whose ratings spawned the prime-time reality craze got the ax this week. Regis Philbin, entrepreneurial host of *Who*

Wants to Be a Millionaire, has been dumped by ABC in yet another of the network's slaps in the face to those who work tirelessly for it. For anyone who watches *Regis and Kelly: Live!* on ABC mornings, Philbin is a character, comic genius and perennial good sport. He dragged ABC up from the ratings gutter with *Millionaire*. Last week, the network canceled the prime-time version and announced a daytime slot for the show hosted by, of all wrong people, *The View*'s Meredith Vieira. Perhaps ABC's execs don't actually watch *The View*, which is, after all, fairly painful to sit through. And we know they must have missed Vieira's not-so-star turn as host of ABC's *Miss America Pageant* a few years back because, helloooo:

Vieira may have been a great reporter at *60 Minutes* before hitting the Mommy track so hard it jarred her brains, but she's rarely smart these days and only titularly amusing as a foil for the other not-so-interesting gals at *The View*. If ABC wants to see a ratings bust, *Millionaire*, for which Philbin coined the phrase "Is that your final answer?," just watch Vieira bankrupt the franchise. Or don't.

Speaking of daytime, is Rosie really leaving, or is this like Barbara Streisand's farewell concert? Don't get us wrong, we love Rosie, but didn't we see her last show last month? What's with the whole new spate of "never-before-seen Rosie?"

Stay tuned to summer sweeps on daytime for the queer storyline heating up on ABC's *All My Children*. Summer on soaps is traditionally peopled with the under-25 set to lure in kids on vacation. Which means AMC's resident baby dyke might actually get a summer love like every other teen. Since coming out of the closet and losing the lesbian love of her life to a psycho killer, Bianca Montgomery (Eden Reigel) has been on the front burner for well over a year, a record in soapdom for a teen player. Of course it helps that Bianca is the doted-upon dyke daughter of the show's reigning diva, Erica Kane (Susan Lucci). But even we never expected to see Bianca go to her senior prom with a girl! Especially since her mother had paid all the other young les-

page 33 ►



Steve and Kim Smith: sex, death, religion and betrayal, on PBS' *P.O.V.*

Mormon meltdown

The Smiths of Salt Lake City

by Robert Julian

The popular PBS documentary showcase, *P.O.V.*, begins its 15th anniversary season Tuesday night with *The Smith Family*, a complex saga of sex, death, religion, and betrayal in Salt Lake City. Hunky Steve Smith and his wife, Kim, are happily married with two sons until, on their ninth wedding anniversary, Steve discloses he has been having clandestine affairs with men. Three years later, Kim learns she is HIV-positive, and Steve is diagnosed with AIDS.

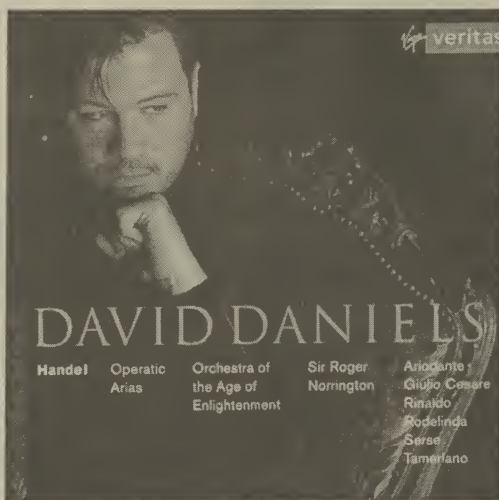
Producer/director Tasha Oldham follows the Smiths as they deal with their personal *Gottterdammerung* against the rigid religious backdrop of the Mormon Church. The relatives, the community, and the church bishops all have opinions; and the Smiths cannot remove themselves from religious doctrine because, as Kim puts it, "I'm still a Mormon because it's who I am, in my soul." In addition to the practical issues the family must confront, they are also forced to grapple with the Mormon concept of the eternal family. The Mormon faith teaches that a marriage "sealed" by the Church and conducted according to its dictates will result in a family that stays together in the afterlife, for all eternity. Excommunication by the Church is not sim-

ply a temporal, but an eternal damnation.

As his health declines, Steve Smith explains his own personal evolution in the understanding of his sexuality. At the beginning, he blames teenage molestation (while he worked as a groundskeeper at the Mormon Temple) for his homosexuality. He later tries to convince the Church he has changed in order to receive their blessing. Finally he acknowledges that he is homosexual; nothing and no one can change that fact. But the most interesting and compelling character of this documentary is Steve's wife, Kim, who keeps her family together by her overwhelming love and compassion.

Tasha Oldham's camera documents this unfolding saga with sensitivity and a commendable detachment. But there are moments when *The Smith Family* is hard to watch. Steve Smith's physical decline is tragic, and the barely controlled outpouring of emotion from his immediate family can be gut-wrenching. Oldham produces an intelligent documentary that will cause most viewers to revisit their own value systems, and speculate just how well those systems might hold up under similar circumstances. ▼

The Smith Family airs Tuesday, June 25 at 10 p.m. on KQED, channel 9.



Title on sale: June 18th thru June 30th.

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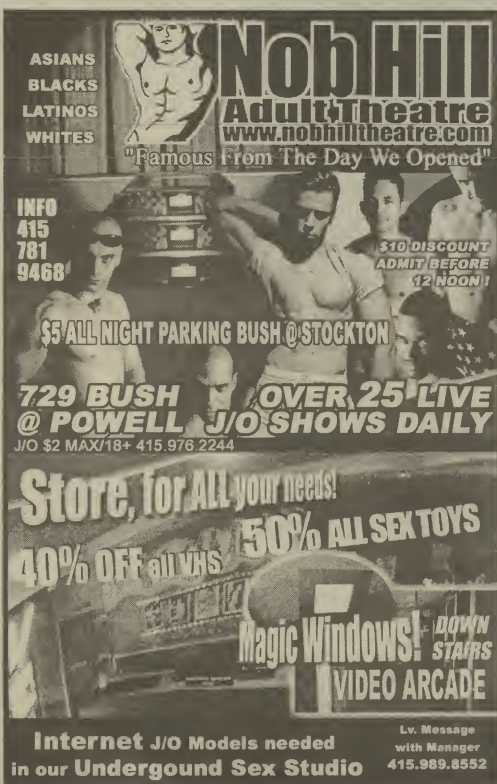
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'Days' of our lives

Passionate Italians at SFILGFF

by Brandon Judell

In the '50s, Lana Turner just had to deal with the agony of committing adultery, and possibly a little murder, between passionate embraces with various hot men.

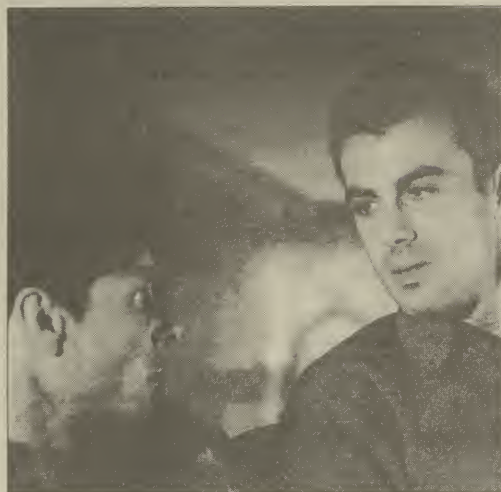
In *Days*, Laura Muscardin's Italian take on the same genre, 35-year-old Claudio (the lean, intense Thomas Trabacchi) has a little more on his plate. He's a successful banker with AIDS, a problematic sister, a nosy mother, and a handsome HIV-negative lover, Dario.

Well, Dario and Claudio are in the midst of moving to Milan when hunky waiter Andrea shows up. First, Claudio and the lad make it in a car. But for Claudio, there's something special about this liaison. He needs to meet Andrea again. He does. In Andrea's apartment.

Immediately the pair start kissing and moving toward the bedroom. Claudio suddenly stops and asks if Andrea has any condoms. The young man says no. "It doesn't matter," Claudio, overrun by passion, acquiesces for the first time.

And so the affair begins, and Claudio's once-happy, rigid life starts falling apart, into a happy one of love and irresponsibility. Why the dramatic change? As Claudio notes about having AIDS: "You have to be careful about everything. Always." With Andrea, everything is immediate and about love.

The astute screenplay never overplays its hand and avoids melodrama. It also lets you play the judge. It's up to you to decide whether two consenting adults with two different HIV statuses who knowingly have unprotected sex are idiots, monsters, or just free



Davide Bechini and Thomas Trabacchi in Laura Muscardin's *Days*

spirits. *Days* (*Giorni*) plays the Castro Saturday, June 22, at 3:30 p.m.

A perfect '21'

Bravo to the Frameline Fest for featuring a delightful new talent, Erin Greenwell. Her *21*, just 53 minutes long and shot on video, is a perfect distillation of what it is to be gawky in high school and discovering you're a lesbian.

Fifteen-year-old Leigh (Rachel Style) is the girl with raging hormones who's the centerpiece of this feature. She's in the school band, her parents are divorced, mom's pushing samples of turkey roll at a local grocery store, her hated brother's on the wrestling team, and she's in love with Jen, who sits next to her during band practice. This is a living hell until the day the girls' knees "kiss." Wait till Leigh's diary hears about this.

And then wait until the journal learns about Jen and Leigh finally having their first prolonged kiss after Jen removes her sneakers.

21 perfectly captures the anxieties of teenhood, dysfunctional sibling behavior, and those first pangs of same-sex passion. Throngs will identify with Ms. Style, a fresh young actress who blesses being gangly with charm. Steve Porcelli as the bastard bro is eye-candy for the gay boys who show up with their lesbian roommates. And, yes, we do get to see him wrestle in one of those tight little suits.

But more important, *21* heralds the appearance of a very skilled director/writer with loads of promise. Plays the *Little Women* program, with Lisa Ginsburg's *Chicken Night* and Caren McDonald's *Shaving* (Castro, 6/23). ▽

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OUT&ABOUT



"Eh, what's up, Lady Bunny?" Find out at Trannyshack. See Tuesday.

Calendare by Mark Mardon

Space for art

Joe Mama, my fire-spinning, Kabbalah-reading, dreadlocked circus artist friend, dropped by my queer yoga class in the Mission the other day to pass along word about an event his group **ArtSF** is doing in conjunction with the nonprofit umbrella organization **artAngels**, which is dedicated to cultivating a new generation of art audiences and patrons. On Friday, June 21, says Joe Mama, **artAngels** will be presenting "**Inhibition/Exhibition**," a gala benefit and art auction at Cowell Theater at Fort Mason Center, from 6 p.m. to midnight. The group **ArtSF** (which Joe Mama co-founded), along with Genart SF and Black Rock Arts, will be curating the visual art exhibition and silent art auction, and many performers will entertain, among them:

- Kunst-Stoff, the experimental ballet company, in a world premiere, "Super Vision," by choreographer Tomi Paasonen;
- Xeno, a theatrical performance group with a fusion of intricately choreographed dance, breathtaking aerial acts, hypnotic fireplay and mesmerizing video-art;
- Shadowlight Productions, presenting contemporary shadow theater, integrating traditional shadow theater techniques with American theater and film styles;
- D'Yara, a female capella ensemble uniting traditions of Eastern European and West African music and beyond;
- Stagebridge, the oldest senior theater organization in the nation;
- Daphne Gottlieb, an artist from the Jon Sims Center, doing performance poetry;
- Circus Center, the premiere training center for the arts of the circus, with its distinctive brand of creative expression;
- Tenement, a Butoh Art Collective.

Joe Mama tells me the reason his group is involved is because they're trying to purchase a warehouse space for an artists collective. As he posted on his **ArtSF.org** website: "We artists have been watching rent prices steadily soar beyond our reach. We have seen many studios and artspaces evicted from their long-term homes. The rental market has made it impossible for most artists to rent an apartment in San Francisco, much less to start a new art space. . . . A lot of San Francisco's artists have had to move away because of the lack of affordable space. We need practice and performance space to work in as well as apartments to live in to continue to create in this city. . . . We have tried to address the city government in regard to these issues, but we have had little success. . . . Artists will not be swayed by the whims of the market. Art will have permanent home in San Francisco." ▼

Tickets for **artAngels' "Inhibition/Exhibition"** are \$18-\$40. Call 345-7575 or surf artAngels.org and/or ArtSF.org

Fri 21

National Queer Arts Festival (NQAf) @ The Center

"Crawspace," in which Danielle Abrams showcases four characters in the SF debut of her one-woman show (listed as "Quadroom" in the printed catalog), an examination of the intertwined roots of her racial and cultural identity-African-American and white, Christian and Jewish. \$15. 7pm. SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia), 2nd floor. Tix/info: 865.5611; www.queerculturalcenter.org

NQAf @ The Center

Cultural Odyssey in association with the National Performance Network and the NQAf present: "Faggot," by Lynwood Benard, a one-man multi-character performance, the story of Michael, a boy who, haunted by his mother, Rita, runs the gamut of attempted suicide, rape, alcoholism, homelessness and prostitution. From a homoerotic rite of passage into manhood, through spiritual warfare, to self-salvation, Michael inevitably learns what it means and costs to be both black and gay. \$15. 9pm. LGBT Community Center, 2nd floor. Tix/info: 865.5611, www.queerculturalcenter.org

NQAf @ SomArts

Performance poet Sini Anderson takes the stage for "Displacement," a multimedia spoken word piece addressing displacement on many different levels of community, gender, race, class, culture, body, mind, and religion. With novelist/performance poet Marci Blackman, slam & perf. poet Marcus Rene Van, and Vancouver recording artist Kinnie Starr. Plus archival video of the late, great Kris Kovick. \$10-\$20 sliding. 8pm. 934 Brannan (at 8th St.). Tix/info: 865.5611, www.queerculturalcenter.org

NQAf @ SomArts

Opening reception: "Flux," an exhibition of works by cutting-edge artists Kriss De Jong and Eliot Daughtry of Killer Banshee Studios. "Flux" is a display of ancient technique combined with modern technology, making art in a comprehensive array of media and techniques that resonate on concepts of gender, change, transformation, and personal mythology. Donation. 6pm. 934 Brannan (at 8th St.). Info: www.killerbanshee.com

QueLaco @ Mission Cultural Center

The 12th Annual Queer Latino/a Arts Festival and NQAf present Tina D'Elia in "Groucho: A Day in the D'Elia Soup." This one-woman comedy focuses on a personality, sexuality, gender identity, and cultural conflict between the character Tina D'Elia and Groucho Marx. One morning Tina, a Latina lesbian, wakes alarmed to find herself transformed into Groucho Marx! \$10-\$20. Sliding. 8pm. Also on Sat., June 22. 2868 Mission St. (at 24th St.). Tix/info: 865.5611, www.queerculturalcenter.org

NQAf @ African American Arts & Culture Complex

liquidFIRE Productions presents The Liquid Fire Project's "Skin Hot Bone Deep," directed by Veronica C. Combs. Lesbian and bisexual women of color take you on a journey through song, dance, storytelling, poetry, theatre, and unspoken interpretation that explores the relationship between race and erotic power. With live music by Shawn Garmon; vocal arrangements and direction by Allegra Bandy. Starring Em Abuan, Alegria Barclay, Tameka Beaudreaux, Richelle Donigan, Teresa Ellis, Cherisma T. Feril, Jennifer Foreman, Ntombi Howell, Rosalind McMillan, Rachel R. Rodriguez, Lindsusan Ulrich and Patricia Wright. Advance Tix: \$18 (\$13 students/disabled/senior). At door: \$23 & \$15. 8pm Thu. -Sun., June 20-23; (2 pm & 8pm Sat.; 3pm Sun.). AAACC, 762 Fulton (at Webster). Tix/info: 865.5611, www.queerculturalcenter.org

culturalcenter.org; A Different Light Bookstore

Theatre Artaud

counterPULSE and ODC Theater Off-site present Keith Hennessy's "Circo Zero," a fusion of popular and experimental, contemporary and ancient performance forms, utilizing a diverse team of circus and music artists. Collaborating artists include vocalists Gabriel Todd and Loren Olds, aerialists Amanda Starr, Benn Mendoza, and Susan Voyticky, power tumbler Tyler Downing, hand balancer Jade-blue Eclipse, and composer/DJ Neal Stewart. \$20. Thu.-Sun. thru July 7 (no perf. June 30). 8:30pm. 450 Florida St. Tix/info: 863-9834; www.odctheater.org

Plush Room

In concert: Broadway, film, TV actor, singer, songwriter, director and producer Sam Harris embarks on a two-week engagement. His cabaret show, "An Intimate Evening with Sam Harris," has been enthusiastically embraced by critics and audiences. Harris has performed with the likes of Liza, Madonna, Stevie Wonder, and George Michael. \$30. 8pm. Thru June 1. York Hotel, 940 Sutter St. Tix/info: 885-2800; www.plushroom.com

Esta Noche

"Esta Noche Pageant," featuring the selection of Mr. and Miss Gay Latino/a '02. Hosted by Carla Gay and Tony Chavez (Mr. Gay Latino '98). 8:30pm. 3079 16th St. (btwn Mission & Valencia). Info: 861-5757.

Sat 22

SF Hiking Club

Join other outdoors lovers for a Mt. Tamalpais Northside Hike. Enjoy views of Bon Tempe and Alpine lakes on the first day of summer. It's a moderate 10-mile hike with a 1,600-ft. elevation gain. Meet 8:30am under the large Safeway sign at Market & Dolores. Club info: 487-6410; www.sfhiking.com

SFMOMA

Opening: "Yes Yoko Ono," the first American retrospective of the work of pioneering artist Yoko Ono, with some 150 works from the 1960s to now. Organized by the Japan Society, New York; curated by Alexandra Munroe, in consultation with Fluxus scholar Jon Hendricks. \$10 adults. Daily (except Wed.) 11am-6pm; open till 9pm Thu. Exhibition runs thru Sept. 8. 151 Third St. Info: 357-4000; www.sfmoma.org

Randall Museum

Opening day: "Bugs! Bugs! Bugs!" An interactive exhibit in celebration of insects. Featuring amazing insect sculptures, huge insect drawings, and myriad insect-inspired scenes and activities. Free. 10am-5pm Tue.-Sat. Thru mid-Sept. 199 Museum Way (off Roosevelt, above the Castro). Info: 554-9600; www.randallmuseum.org

Encantada Gallery

Opening reception: "Places of Origin,"



The Whooa Nellies bring their bubblegum preservation society sounds to the ultra-hip underground Café Du Nord. See Wednesday.

Images from a Printmaker's Journal," by Chicano artist Xavier Viramontes, who for 20 years has produced iconic images of Latino life. Free. 2-5pm. 908 Valencia St. (at 20th St.). Info: 642-3939.

Harvey Milk Photography Center

The Bay Area Photographers Collective presents a talk and slide show by San Anselmo-based photographer Kent Reno. Free. 2pm. 50 Scott St. (at Duboce), downstairs. Info: 255-9569.

Sun 23

Sigmund Stern Grove

In concert: Stern Grove Festival presents legendary Colombian singer/dancer Totó La Momposina, plus the powerful beats of New York-based Yerba Buena. Bring picnic basket and ground covers. Arrive early to claim space. Free. 2pm. Info: 252-6252; www.sterngrove.org

Harry Denton's Starlight Room

Midlife Gay Men (MGM), in collaboration with the Stop AIDS Project, presents the second annual "Geezer's Ball," a tea dance in the '70s tradition. All midlife (however you define "midlife") gay and bi men invited. Swing to Big Band, disco, *musica Latina*, and today's hits. Party dress encouraged. Free admission with reservation. 4-7pm. Powell & Sutter. Reservations: 1-866-668-4634; email mgm-mhr@onebox.com

King Street Garage

Sundance Saloon presents "The Wrecking Ball," the last country-western party at King Street Garage before Sundance Saloon moves to its new home at 550 Barneveld. \$5. 6-11pm. 174 King St. Info: 699-5764; www.sundancesaloon.org

Mon 24

Intersection for the Arts

Opening night; world premiere: Campo Santo + Intersection present Erin Cressida Wilson's *i feel love*, featuring Sean San José and live original music by Josh Jones, and Scheherazade Stone with Michael Aaberg, Jacob Ackerman and Errol Cooney. Directed by Campo Santo. Do you remember San Francisco 1971? 1979? 1984? 1999? Now? Donna Summer? Lamé? Kool and the Gang? Bathhouses and Discos? Where were you when Harvey Milk was shot? Do you remember the first time you heard of AIDS? The first time you understood that no matter who you are you would feel AIDS in your lifetime? Do you remember when you thought AIDS was over and we were fast-forwarding once again? *i feel love* starts like a page in a diary: one man disclosing one very real, very private and very painful story. The story of his life. The story of his parents dying. The story of our city. \$9-\$15 sliding (Thu. are "pay what you can"). 8pm. Thu.-Sun. thru July 15. 446 Valencia St. (btwn 15th & 16th sts.). Tix/info: 626-3311; www.theintersection.org

QComedy @ The Center

"Monday Night Gay Comedy" hosted by Scott Silverman, with Janis Lipton, Doug Holcswan, Marilyn Pittman, Lisa Geduldig, Nick Leonard, Maura Kennedy, and Bridget Schwartz. \$15-\$20 sliding. 8pm. LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia), 4th floor Ceremonial Room. Tix/info:

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552-7200; www.QComedy.com

NQAF @ Brava

Opening night: "Women In Music Series," curated by Sini Anderson, four consecutive days of some of the most widely recognized musicians in the women's music community: Kaia Wilson of the Butchies and Ferron (tonight), Nedra Johnson and Gwen Avery (Tue, 6/25), Kinzie Starr and Uali (Wed, 6/26), and Bitch and Animal (Thu, 6/27). Styles include feminist folk, blues, soul, First Nation original and traditional song, hip-hop, progressive, original-rock, and gender funk punk. This series highlights artists who are linked stylistically, culturally, or politically. \$20-\$30 sliding (per night). 7:30pm (doors 7pm). Brava Theater, 2789 24th St. (at York; parking at SFGH at San Bruno and 24th St.). Tix/info: 865-5611, www.queerculturalcenter.org

Tue 25**NQAF @ ODC Theater**

Fresh Meat Productions and ODC Theater present "Fresh Meat," two nights of "fresh, fierce and tasty queer and trans performance." This transgressive cabaret offers up homo hip hop, genderqueer modern dance, unapologetic performance art, all-female breakdancing, and dance theater that responds to the collision of race, gender and sexuality. Emceed with sass and style by Tina D'Elia and Machiko Saito. Featuring Deep Dick Collective, Sean Dorsey, Hagen & Simone, House of Vogue, Gigi Otálvaro-Hormillosa, Shawna Virago and the Deadly Nightshade family, The Sisterz of the Underground, and Steamroller Dance. \$12-\$15 sliding. 8pm. 3153 17th St. (at Shotwell). Tix/info: 863-9834; www.odctheater.com

NQAF @ The Center

Special reading featuring editor/publisher Winston Leyland and contributors to *Out in the Castro*: *Desire, Promise, Activism*, the new anthology that vividly captures the spirit, history, culture, politics and personalities of America's most famous LGBTQ neighborhood. Featuring activist/playwright/literary provocateur Tommi Avicolli-Mecca, singer/activist Blackberri, former Board of Supervisors member Harry Britt, Gay Games Vice President Gene Dermody, activist and former MCC pastor Jim Mitulski, photographer Rink Foto, novelist and Harvey Milk's speechwriter Frank Robinson, authors Jewelle Gomez, Kirk Read, Laura Siegel, and many more. \$10-\$15, sliding. 8 pm. SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Mar-

ket @ Octavia, 4th Floor Tix/info: 865-5611; www.queerculturalcenter.org

The Stud Bar

"Trannyshack" welcomes drag phenomenon Lady Bunny, fresh from New York City in her first Bay Area appearance in four years. Renowned as the creator and hostess of NYC's annual drag festival "Wigstock," and her appearances in many movies and TV specials. She's also active in nationwide campaigns for Nia water and PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals). Since she ended "Wigstock" last year, she's been touring with her bawdy nightclub act and moonlighting as a high profile DJ, most recently at Falcon Studios' 30th Anniversary party in LA. Heklina hostesses. Miss Chocolate guards the door. DJ Pinky Ring spins. \$8. Doors open 10pm; show at midnight. 399 Ninth St. (at Harrison). Info: www.heklina.com

Lush Lounge

"Very Veronica," a soulful lounge act featuring one of the city's finest cabaret artists, Veronica Klaus, delivering her trademark bluesy songs. featuring cozy, jazzy blues, and simmering Soul Cabaret in an intimate environment, with Tammy Hall caressing the baby grand and adorable Daniel Fabricant on bass, plus a great view of colorful Polk St. and the Lush's famous music and movie memorabilia. \$7 cover. 9pm-11:30 or midnight. 1100 Polk St. (at Post).

Wed 26**The Stud Bar**

Brian Knecht Presents "The Crimson Club," a night of live original jazzy music featuring the dynamic talents of jazzy young composer/arranger Spencer Day on piano and vocals, with Erika Torchia (violin, guitar, vocals), Keely Rogers-Free (guitar, vocals), Erik Sandall (bass) and more. Cover. 9pm. 9th & Harrison. Info: 252-STUD; www.studSF.com

Café Du Nord

In concert: The Whoa-Nellies, an outta sight vocal group with Leigh Crow (Elvis Herselvis/Flatcracker) and Miss Connie Champagne on vocals, plus Peter Fogel and Tim Perdue (Enrique) on vocals, guitar and bass, plus Kevin Kirkbride (Pepper Spray) on skins. The quintet prides itself in resurrecting lost vocal harmonies in the bubbly tradition of The Mamas & the Papas, Partridge Family, and Cowbills. \$5. 9:30pm. 2170 Market St. (at Sanchez). Info: 861-5016; www.whoa-nellies.com

Cobb's Comedy Club

Opening night: "Swallow My Pride," the 1st Annual Gay/Lesbian Comedy Festival, with special opening night guest host Tom Ammiano, plus the comedic talents of Scott Kennedy, Sabrina Matthews, Dan Rothenberg, and Scott Silverman. A benefit for the AIDS Emergency Fund. Other hosts through Sun., June 30 include Nick Leonard, Janis Lipton, Marilyn Pittman, Lisa Geduldig, Regina Stoops and Pippi Lovestocking. 2801 Leavenworth St.

Thu 27**Qcc Gallery @ The Center**

Opening reception: The Qcc Gallery and the National Queer Arts Festival present "Robert Rauschenberg: From the Collection of Terry Van Brunt: Love Letters." This important exhibition of some 50 works by world-renowned artist Robert Rauschenberg inaugurates the new Qcc Gallery. Every work in this collection was a gift from Rauschenberg to Terry van Brunt, once the artist's chief assistant and a companion. Assembled as a private collection by the man who was perhaps the central focus of Rauschenberg's life for much of the 70s and 80s, it exposes a side of Rauschenberg ignored by mainstream museums. The mission of Qcc Gallery is to borrow important works from public and private collections to finally enable the display of a full, uncensored art history. Donations encouraged. 6pm. SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St, 3rd Floor. Info: 865-5611; www.queerculturalcenter.org

The Lexington Club

"Temptation Island," a Gay Pride party at the only all-girl-all-the-time bar in SF. Treat yourself to a tropical thunderstorm of passion. Contests for wet T-shirt, best thong, buns of steel, and tightly whiteys. Loose women and cheap booze. Tunes by DJ Waxchee. Hosted by world famous drag king Electrol and co-hostess Serafina. 9pm-2am. 19th St. at Lexington. Info: 863-2052.

The Pendulum

"Alley Catz," the weekly club night for women, invites you to "Hep Cat," their first anniversary party and fundraiser for Hepatitis C research. DJs Lady G-Funk, Eclat & Divinity share the booth. Buffet, drink specials, raffle, auction, and a fetishwear fashion show. No cover. 6pm-2am. 21+ w/D. 4146 18th St. (at Collingwood). Info: 863-4441.

Creativity Explored Gallery

Opening reception: "Seeing Behind the Face," an exhibition about explorations of identity by studio artists working with large colorful pastel portraiture. Ink drawing on large paper scrolls transform the space into a labyrinth, and a video piece acquaints us with the artists, adults with disabilities. Free. 7-9pm. 3245 16th St. (btwn Dolores & Guerrero). Info: 863-2108; creativityexplored.org

Dance Mission Theatre

Dancers' Group and 1000greybirds present "Nine Days on Dark Water," a woven tale in nine movements, directed by acclaimed European theatre director and choreographer Angus Balbernie, with live music by Peter Whitehead, Sean Feit, Joan Ling-Zwissler and Edward Schocker. Featuring Angela Bausch, Brenton Cheng, Cinzia Sperou-Gloekler (Australia), Hilary Bryan, Ji-hyun Youn (Korea), Krista DeNio, Maria Ramos de Barros (Portugal) and Vitali Kononov (Russia). \$15. 8pm. 3316 24th St. (at Mission St.). Tix/info: 920-9181; www.9DaysOnDarkWater.com

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A trip to the Richard Nixon Library

by Will Shank

By the time you read this, the long-hidden identity of "Deep Throat" will either have been revealed to the world, or not, by John Dean. No, that's not the porn icon Linda Lovelace, recently deceased, but the Watergate blabbermouth who sunk the Nixon Administration with the help of two *Washington Post* reporters. The only visual image we have of this mystery person is Hal Holbrook, who played "Deep Throat" in the film version of Woodward and Bernstein's exposé *All the President's Men* way back in 1976, when the seamy history of the Republicans' infiltration of the Democratic HQ in 1972 was still giving Washington a bad smell. The stench has stopped only intermittently since.

If you need a place to celebrate, protest, or just stare in disbelief at the mementos of the Nixon legacy on this historic week, why not consider a trip to Yorba Linda, in one of Southern California's most smog-choked valleys? The delightful location, ringed with freeways (and billed on its website as "15 minutes from Disneyland"—they wish!) is the birthplace of Richard Milhous Nixon, and you can see the bed he was born in, covered with a cheerful patchwork quilt. It is also the site of his grave, where he has rested in peace next to Pat since 1994, near the outdoor amphitheater, a gift of Bob and Dolores Hope. (The Nixons' legacy rests less easily, as the feud between daughters Julie Nixon Eisenhower and Tricia Nixon Cox over their father's papers has recently been smeared across the national press.) You can tour the reconstructed house he was born in. You can pose for a photo by his grave. Birth to Earth. In-between come the contents of a remarkable museum.

Although the rambling Richard Nixon Library and Birthplace is obviously intended as a tribute to the disgraced 37th President, his dirty laundry is also on display to ponder and to savor. The Watergate story finds its chronological place within the

long, ponderous walkthrough of the Nixon years, from his humble beginnings as a Quaker boy sharing an upstairs bedroom with his three brothers, to his dubious place in history as an international statesman. Other embarrassing moments are put right out there for the visitor's consideration, including Nixon's famous 1952 "Checkers Speech," wherein Milhous becomes downright sentimental on camera about the family pooch, and coins such unlikely phrases as "a good Republican cloth coat," speaking of his wife's humble but dignified attire.

It's Pat!

Opportunities for giggles at presumably inadvertent kitschiness abound at almost every turn within the Presidential Memorial. The displays of the First Lady's wardrobe betray a tortured attempt on the part of her staff to give Pat Nixon some dignity while also acknowledging the grooviness of the Psychedelic '60s and '70s. An eerie gallery filled with life-size figures of world leaders from the Nixon years begs the visitor to stand nose-to-nose with DeGaulle, to rub Khrushchev's belly, or to shake hands with Golda Meir, but, alas, the guards will stop you. They are only plaster, after all, painted to resemble bronzes (probably easier to move, and cheaper!) Like so many other things in the Nixon Administration, as we have learned in the past few decades, they were not precisely what they seemed to be. (An exceptionally creepy postcard in the museum shop shows real-life Ex-Prezes Nixon, Ford, Reagan, and Bush, Sr., placed like gray-suited statues among the fake bronze effigies.) But perhaps the best kitsch moment is represented by an enormous oil painting in which VP Nixon shows oppressed Hungarian refugees the way out of Soviet oppression in 1956, like Moses parting the Red Sea. It is on permanent display in the Legacy of Peace Gallery, as a gift from its Hungarian-American artist, who probably didn't want it anymore after the Presidential resignation.

If you go, save time for the mu-

seum store, where you can buy a T-shirt with a simple "nixon" on the chest, which looks like a laundry-detergent logo. You can also bring home a reproduction of the historic 1970 White House moment when the King met the Prez: Elvis was on an ironic mission as a goodwill ambassador to improve the morals of America's youth, who were bedeviled by teenage sex, mind-altering drugs, and other nasty stuff. Then there is a cartoon portrait of Nixon, done by his golfing buddy, the "King of Mambo," Xavier Cougat, which raises the tantalizing question: Did Charo ever spend a night in the Lincoln Bedroom?

If you can't make the trip south, visit the website, where, when you tire of historical facts about Dick and Pat, Henry Kissinger and Alexander Haig, you can consider the Nixon Library as a possible location for your wedding reception. "Let our staff help you make your wedding day the most incredible day of your life!" the website chirps. Wouldn't it be fun to e-mail the party-planners requests for same-sex events? If you plan your gathering carefully, it could coincide with an interesting lecture, like last week's opportunity to meet Pat Buchanan, author of *Death of the West: How Dying Populations and Immigrant Invasions Imperil Our Country and Civilization*. It was just for Flag Day on June 14.

But lest you let the comic side of the evil Milhous win you over, you must pause to consider the proliferation of photo ops featuring the 37th President with the 41st, George Bush, Sr., whose career Nixon furthered by appointing the elder Bush UN Ambassador in 1970, and envoy to China in 1974. Indeed, where would we be today without Richard Milhous Nixon? ▼

The Richard Nixon Library & Birthplace is open every day except Thanksgiving and Christmas. 18001 Yorba Linda Blvd., Yorba Linda, CA Info: (714) 993-3393, www.nixonfoundation.org



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FILM FESTIVAL

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and verbal sophistication. Alexie's hero, the ethnically challenged Seymour Plotkin, rebels against his fate by trading his life on an Indian reservation for a first-rate education at a white college, followed by a critically acclaimed role as a poet charged with the dubious task of interpreting Native American culture for the mainstream. Called home by the death of a childhood friend, Seymour's loyalties are challenged by both his white lover Steven ("They're not your tribe anymore, I'm your tribe,") and by the opinion of his tribe members as reflected in a poll: "73% of Spokane Indians think Seymour is an asshole, while 22% think he's just a jerk, while 5% are undecided." Confirming Seymour's opinion that "living on a reservation is like living inside an Edith Wharton novel," Alexie's film does justice to the misunderstood role of the writer, and to our unease about all American identity at this time. (Castro, 6/25)

3. The Lawless Heart British filmmakers Neil Hunter and Tom Hunsinger follow up their romantic hit *Boyfriends* (Frameline '96) with a bittersweet tale that also pivots around death in an incestuously tight community. The drowning of Nick's lover Stuart not only leaves Nick lonely and broke, but for a time questioning his sexual identity, if not his sanity. Stuart's demise rocks several other lives in a film that deftly switches points of view. (Castro, 6/21)

4. Claire An irony-free zone, the most uniquely different film at the Festival is a return to a 1920s-style of silent moviemaking, so well-executed that you'd think it was discovered in some farmer's barn in rural Georgia. Director Milford Thomas does a witty update on a Japanese traditional tale about a childless old couple who are magically given a baby inside a bamboo stalk. In Thomas' hands, the couple become a pair of gay farmers, Josh (Sister Missionary P. Delight) and Walt (James Ferguson), who joyfully discover a fully-grown girl, Claire (Toniet Gallego), hidden in a cornstalk. Thomas explores how silent filmmaking might have evolved if not cut off in its prime, telling his story visually, without the intrusion of title cards, and by a sensually effective painting-on-film technique that includes the color-tinting process that silent films had begun to explore on the eve of the Sound Era.

Allen Jeffrey Rein, with the finely-articulated bone structure and ability to project a sense of naive astonishment reminiscent of an early Buster Keaton, shines as a young man saved by a miracle. Killed in a diving accident, his body is washed by his aunt, a scene with just a hint of necrophilia, mixed with faith-healing and the redemptive power of a moonchild's tears. The film's moody score will be performed live by a 12-piece chamber orchestra conducted by its composer, Anne Richardson. (Herbst, 6/26)

5. The Politics of Fur At first glance, Una (Katy Selverstone) would appear to have won a lipstick-lesbian version of *The Price Is Right*, First Prize being getting to work at home in your underwear in a white-on-white condo decorated by nifty electronic devices, a secretary named Dick (the ultimate boytoy robotic humanoid who tracks your faxes,

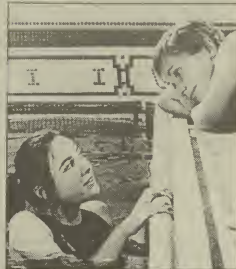


The Politics of Fur: raising Baby.

gives organic-snack breaks, and fends off your annoyingly needy mother), and a tiger cub named Baby. Many of us with reclusive habits might be tempted to sign up for Una's world, until we discover that it's based on the disorderly world of late German film director Rainer Werner Fassbinder.

Filmmaker Laura Nix follows pretty closely the basic plot of Fassbinder's *The Bitter Tears of Petra Von Kant*, largely adhering to Fassbinder's love-is-colder-than-death world view. Dick, two

phone lines and Baby seem to supply the very controlling Una's every need, until love walks in the door in the form of B, a punkish lesbo-vixen. B, as untamable as Baby, instigates a household rebellion, a coup against Una's domestic tyranny, and a blow to her slender grasp on reality. *The Politics of Fur* is Fassbinder astutely sampled for 12-steppers and cable junkies. In Nix's version, the boys are okay, the girls another question. (Castro, 6/23)



Lianna: launched a queer wave.

6. Lianna John Sayles' 1983 exploration of a young woman's journey of self-discovery, including a rocky affair with her college professor, helped launch a wave of

queer cinema that we're still surfing. Sayles has said that creating a character who was as naive as himself about the ways of the lesbian world was an ideal jumping-off point for a story about human beings who were better represented in his life than they were on the big screen. Featuring a newly-struck print as one of four films in The John Sayles Film Restoration Project. (Castro, 6/24)

7. Days A gay man's out-of-control passionate relationship in the shadow of AIDS, examined in a PC-free zone, with Italian standards of beauty as an added bonus. (Castro, 6/22)

8. Britney Baby - One More Time A silly romp about drag divas and media wannabes trolling after celebrity, mostly worth seeing for the performance of Robert Stephens, who channels Britney better than Britney. *Britney Baby* peaks before she reaches her goal, a Papal audience with the real Britney. (Castro, 6/29)

9. Tricia's Wedding/Elevator Girls in Bondage After sampling the acid-fueled lives of the Cockettes in Weissman and Weber's nifty doc, catch their loony act in two films that rate with the best of



Elevator Girls in Bondage: loony.

early-'70s John Waters and Paul Morrissey. *Tricia's Wedding* allows you to grasp why Nixon flipped his wig. (CFA, 6/22)

10. P.S. Your Cat Is Dead James Kirkwood's brilliant setup for the date you don't have to look your best for retains its zing after thousands of community-theatre productions. Lombardo Boyar makes a very cute gay burglar, and Steve Guttenberg at least makes us forget *The Boys from Brazil*. (Castro, 6/29) ▼

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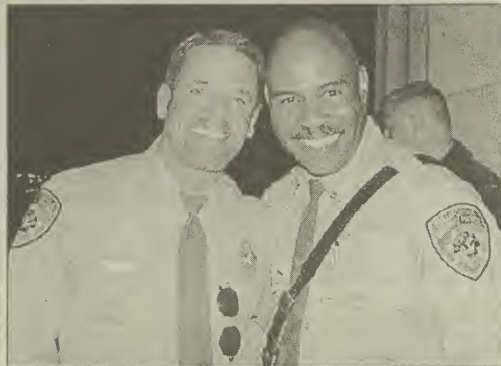
A frenzy of activity

Leather, leather everywhere!

by Mister Marcus

The agenda for the coming weeks is chock full of activities both here and yonder. June is traditionally Gay Pride month almost everywhere, and San Francisco's Pride Parade is just one of many on Sunday, June 30. Hundreds of leather-oriented events take place elsewhere around the nation. If you're a traveling man or woman, and you're lucky enough to be in a city where a leather event is occurring, be sure to take part in the festivities. The more visibility we have, the better.

This weekend in New York, the LURE is naming the new Mr. LURE at a contest on Friday night. Saturday is the big Leather Pride Night Auction at the Puck Building, followed by a Dog and Pony



IML 1979 David Kloss, left, chats with former Leather Daddy Keith Truitt at the Phoenix Leather/Uniform Ball last year. The 2002 edition happens on Friday, June 28 in the Green Room. Tickets are on sale now for \$25.

Show at the LURE again. Sunday is the 6th Annual Folsom Street East fair, from 1400-2000. It's also the pride celebration in Los Angeles this weekend, and that includes the "Erotic City" area with lots of leather represented. Up in Guerneville, it's the Mr. Triple R Leather contest at the Russian River Resort, emceed by Danny Williams and T. Jay Cain on Saturday night, June 22.

On Friday, June 28, the Phoenix Uniform Club stages its annual Uniform/Leather Ball in the Green Room of the War Memorial Building. Tickets are now on sale for only \$25 (formerly \$50) in conjunction with their 25th anniversary held earlier this year. Look for the leather zone in the pride celebration area after the parade. The leather contingent will be very visible as will the ever-popular Bare Chest Calendar float.

Living in Leather, the annual gathering of NLA-International, will be held in Dallas the weekend of July 4-7, but repeated emails to them has yielded no information.

In Phoenix, their main leather stronghold, The Padlock, stages the Padlock Leather Sir/Boy contest the same weekend.

The weekend of July 12-14 is

the Mr. and Ms. Alameda County Leather contests at the Hill & Valley Club. That same weekend, in Colorado, it's Thunder in the Mountains (hopefully bringing rain!), which happens in Denver.

There's also International Mr. and Ms. Deaf Leather contest in conjunction with the Mid-Atlantic Leather Sir/Boy contests in Washington, DC and in Victoria, BC it's also their Leather Sir/Boy contest.

On Sunday, July 14, the Big annual leather auction by the Castro Lions is at the Eagle.

Later come the SF Leather Daddy contest, California Leather Man, Woman and Boy contest, SF Leather Sir/Boy contests (all on the same weekend July 26-28), and the Dore Alley Fair on Sunday, July 28, where hordes of out of town visitors are expected. So polish your boots, clean your leathers and get ready for a hot time in the summer.

Reminders and catching up

Remember the Golden Dildeaux Awards at the Eagle last April? The Golden Gate Guards want you all to know that you helped raise almost \$800, and

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, June 20

Big birthday party for Audrey Joseph on the occasion of her 55th birthday, from 1700-1900, at the 2223 Restaurant on upper Market St. with a lot of surprises.

Friday, June 21

Exiles of SF present "Celeste" who will expound on "All You Ever Wanted to Know About D/S But Were Afraid to Ask" at the Women's Bldg. Doors open 1930; program at 2000. \$3 members/\$6 guests. Little or no parking in this neighborhood.

Weekend June 21-23

In New York City, it's Leather Pride Weekend, with the Mr. LURE contest, Leather Pride Night auction, Dog & Pony Show at the LURE, and the 6th annual Folsom Street East Street Fair on West 13th Street between 9th Ave. & Washington St. between 14th St. & Little West 12th Street.

In Los Angeles, it's their Pride Weekend including an "Erotic City" (leather oriented) at the festival site after the parade.

Saturday, June 22

Mr. Triple R Leather 2002 contest at the Russian River Resort co-emceed by Danny Williams and T. Jay Cain. This one is always fun.

Leather Masters leather store in San Jose launches a summer series of lectures/workshops tonight with Cleo Dubois expounding on "The Secrets of Topping" for a \$5 donation from 1400-1700.

Sunday, June 23

San Franciscans MC beer/soda bust at the Eagle Tavern, 1500-1800. Sundance Saloon "Wrecking Ball" dance party at 174 King Street from 1800-2300 and only \$6. Final CW dance party at this location.

Friday, June 28

The Leather/Uniform Ball takes place in the Green Room of the War Memorial Building. Tickets are only \$25, available at Daddy's, Image Leathers, Mister S, Stompers Boots, Worn Out West and at Leather Masters in San Jose. Don't miss this one!

Saturday, June 29

The 15 Association and the Chicago Hellfire Club team up for the monthly play party at the usual location. Guests must accompany you. Call 415-861-6983 or click on: fraternal@the15association.org.

The 4th annual Pride Brunch happens at the Ramada Plaza Hotel on 8th & Market at 1199 in honor of parade marshals. Tickets are \$75 or \$100 for host seating. Info: empsachet@aol.com.

Romp 'n' roll

by John F. Karr

There are several flavors of the well-known Falcon brand. There is the Romp, which can be subcategorized Dayromp, beside a sun-drenched swimming pool, and Nightromp, in a crepuscular sex club. There is the Romance, which comes both happily realized and bittersweetly unfulfilled. And finally, there is probably the most popular of Falcon's flavors, the overpowering sex in foreboding circumstances of (wolves howl and lightning crashes) the Not Romance. While it's not unusual to find more extreme sport, like dildo-play and fisting, in the first two categories, you can be sure there's neither romp nor romance in the latter. It's serious business.

A glad example of a daytime romp is delivered by the recent Jocks release, *Ready for More* (JVP-109). Its especially entertaining opening and closing scenes bookend a certainly effective middle pair, whose swell incident lacks only the organic build of their companions. In the first scene, the particularly avid bottom Lindon Hawk is getting the best out of ass-stretchingly hung top Chad Hunt. I can't help noticing that the tapering head atop Chad's fat cock can make it look like a giant slug. That may let the behemoth slide in easier, but it's why I still prefer Spike's, straight as a girder and so amply topped it pops going both directions. That doesn't mean I'd decline the chance to watch Chad's, though, and this is one of its better show-cases. There are moments when you'd swear this puppy



Karnal Knowledge

must be a CGI effect, like when the chokehold Hawk's ass clamps around the great girth of Hunt's cock makes it visibly swell. And when eye-to-eye (so to speak) with this cock, young Hawk has an awestruck fervor that is both romantic and sleazy — a swell combo.

Hawk's prowess is encoined in the video's third scene, in which he's plugged from both ends by snarling-lipped Brady Martin and sturdy Daniel Montes (remember his stunning, arty debut in *Crush?*) In the video's second scene, collegiate athlete Matt Skylar worships hypermuscular boy-hunk Matthew Rush. The finale shows off the long, snappy boner and capable butt of boyish newcomer Jacob Hall, passionately



Carlos Morales (center), strapped into his butt-plug, stars in *Branded*.

partnered by Falcon exclusive Colby Taylor, and featuring, as the video's other scenes do so well, exciting examples of director Chi Chi LaRue's favorite POV for a fucking: partners facing the camera, one astride the other's hips to ride his cock. Works for me every time.

Full brood

Falcon's *Branded* (FVP 140) is a stiffening example of the Not Romance. Although there's no discernible logic to the order of the

credits, there's certainly a star to this killer: the chief attraction and major pleasure in all but one of *Branded*'s scenes is Carlos Morales, the brooding, humpy and heavily hung young man who is too rarely featured as he is here. First he's given a startling workout by an unusually grim-faced Cameron Fox (the carnivorous rimming, the weighty sit-down on Cameron's cock that provokes Morales' own cock, without his touching it, to blast its burst of cum). Then he survives the punishment of predators in a lengthy orgy (the size of the dildo, the number of guys!), and wins as his prize a private session with the leader of the pack (butt-plug strapped in, how writhingly he services the big boss, ending upside-down and shooting

onto his face).

The one scene Morales isn't in lets us see Falcon's exclusive star Justin Dragon better than we've ever him before. The slender Dragon's just about as pretty as a butch dude can be, with his pixie nose, supermodel cheekbones, peaches-and-cream complexion and nipped-in waist. Yet despite these refined features, there's Bad Boy written all over him — a fact backed up by his Gothic biker tats.

Still, even though I thrilled to see my boy Carlos displayed every which way, with Dragon and a 10-man posse of gangbangers thrown in for good measure, *Branded* left me somehow unsatisfied. I think it's the story, another of those Falcon "elite, secret society" numbers where membership in a closed brotherhood (being gay) can only be attained by passing a test (submitting to penetration) delivered by those already (somerly) broken in. This paradigm of the gay experience may have had some validity several generations ago, but is surely shopworn. It's a world where the ostensible purveyors of pleasure show scant signs of enjoyment. Though sensationally excessive, such impassively presented, stoically received and particularly joyless proceedings are leaving me increasingly disinterested. ▼

www.Falconstudios.com; (800) 222-3717

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

what fun it was!

Joseph Bean, formerly of Our Town, has retired from the directorship of the Leather Archives & Museum in Chicago and is now happily writing away on Maui in Hawaii. He is working on several books for which he would appreciate any anecdotes or photos you may have to offer for his biography of IML creator Chuck Renslow and the history of the first 25 years of IML. He is also working on a short biography of Alan Selby. Questions? Email: josephbean@earthlink.net.

The Cal Eagles Motorcycle Club wants to remind you that Sat., July 28 is the deadline for

their summer weekend run to Fort Bragg, Calif. on the weekend of July 12-14. The weekend fees run from \$105 to \$200 depending on accommodations. For more info, call (510) 763-6244 or send an email to: info@caleagles.org. You can also visit www.caleagles.org.

Likewise, the Golden Gate Guards MC remind you that the earlybird deadline for their 16th annual "Sweet 16" weekend run is \$125 until June 30th; \$135 until July 28th; and \$145 until Sep. 29th. Don't get left out of the action!

And finally, another IML wedding. This time, it's former Mr. South Plains Leather Dan Azavedo and Mr. Oregon State Leather Rob Hathaway in a commitment ceremony in Golden Gate Park on

Sunday, June 23. Watch for an invitation. Can you guess who's officiating?

Your IML in action

My what a whirlwind of activity for our new IML Stephen Weber already! Last weekend, he was in Washington, D.C. again to participate in their Pride celebration, and was a featured speaker on the main stage of their celebration area. Whether he will appear in San Francisco's Pride Parade is dubious at this point in time. Stay tuned.

That's it for now. For info on leather events around the world, be sure to click on www.L LeatherPage.com. Until next week, keep living, keep loving, keep laughing and keep volunteering. Just do it in leather! ▼

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PARTING GLANCES

Left Leg At Tin Pan- 5/23
Apology: Couldn't keep eyes of your smile; too lame to drop my card into your boot. Offer: recompense for my manners. Healing hands hoping to hear from you. ☎ 71816

Marcus At Dolores Park
Thurs. May 23. I was looking for "a big stick" from the ice cream man. U said you had one. Call Bob. ☎ 71832

Met At Midnight Sun Memorial
Weekend on Saturday. Went to your house on Church Street. I blew it. "Sorry!" Please call. Like to make it up. ☎ 71833

Lands End 6/6, 6/7
Friday- You leaving, dark hair, blue t-shirt and jeans. Me arriving, blue jeans, light brown hair. I should have followed and talked. Interested? Call me. ☎ 71848

Robert At Blow Buddies
We met and had a heart and soul connection last June. Our cards got mixed up. Let's touch again. Tony. ☎ 71849

Sun 2/Jun 38 Geary 11P Westbd
You: Handsome guy in black. De-boarded Third Ave. Me: Scruffy Latin, reading a book in back. Wish I had followed you. Second chance? ☎ 71850

Sunday 6/2 Both Driving Turk St.
We were driving parallel up Turk St. You knodded twice in my direction. I was looking but couldn't respond. Had full car. Would love to hear from you. Liked you very much. ☎ 71851

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Mulatto Guy
Sexy, educated, intelligent light-skinned creative well-hung, creative, good-looking. Seeking the right guy for a fun and meaningful relationship. ☎ 71817

Virgin Bottom Needs Filled Up
Fulfill my fantasy and break me in. Desire uncut a/w smooth clean shaven. Enter me slowly and gently then give me a hard pounding. Make me cry with pleasure. ☎ 71818

One In A Million In San Jose!
GWM, 35, 5'7", 160#, masculine looking and acting, bottom, non-smoker/ drinker, professional, clean-cut, seeking masculine guy (any race) with same qualities for friendship and more. ☎ 71819

No. California Caretaker
Artist esoteric? I'm looking for a gay versatile caretaker must like cats, plants, wilderness. Interesting for right person to manifest long term ideas & potential. NS/ND. ☎ 71820

Young Cute Russian!
Is looking for an intelligent cute American or European (preferably Russian or Italian) to share some common interests, humor, etc. Must be under 40. Looking for love. ☎ 71834

Dark Eyes Olive Skin, Dark Hair
Turn me on. 37 year old blind hair very muscular with a well rounded body and blond moustash. I am HIV+ versatile smooth easy going. Latin or Mediterranean looks A+. ☎ 71836

Fil-Men Bi-Curious
Asian bi-men love to meet bi-men Latino/ Asian/ WBM/ with same interest in sports, changing ideas and walking on the beach. Preferably discreet and honest. ☎ 71854

Affectionate Mature Men
WLM 46, 6', 165lbs ISO affectionate senior men who enjoy lots of deep kissing, holding & cuddling. Poss. ltr. facial hair, non-buffed/ husky A+. Not into gay lifestyle or drugs but smoking ok. ☎ 71855

Nice Jewish Boy w/Big Shitck
Speak softly but carry a big shitck! 43 look 35, 6'-1", 182#, br/gr, clean-shaven, Marketing Executive, own flat-cooked meals, naked massage, small hotels, art, swim, hike, hope for wonderful life. ☎ 71853

Asian Partner Wanted!!
By European man; 44- 6f-185lbs. Into art, music, hiking, classic movies, weight lifting and enjoying the good life. Don't like shallowness or playing games. Let's talk over dinner!! ☎ 71852

Older Asian Wanted!!
WGM, 50yrs, attractive, healthy, well hung, HIV negative; seeks Asian man, 35-45yrs for relationship of fun, love, warmth & passion! Prefer non-smoker, HIV-, and height/weight proportional. ☎ 71835

Italian Guys
I'm the guy who knows what the Italian male really wants! ☎ 71821

Latino Men!!
Me GWM, 34, 6', 170lbs, bld hair, blue eyes, romantic at heart who wants to be fucked. Looking for Latino men, any age, who likes movies, travel and trying anything at least once. No drugs. You HIV- me too. ☎ 71856

SF GWM BF Material Looking For
...You? Built, Furry, poz wants great sex with tall, lndshape, Furry, mature, oral GWM while getting to know each other. Into sharing fun, dining, dancing, movies, culture, hiking, nude beaches, gym. ☎ 71857

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Italian Guys Wanted!
I'm looking for Italian men who are good looking, hung or just plain average Italian guys for fun, good times party, J.O., watch videos, sucking, etc. ☎ 71822

Dirty Old Man Needs Someone Bad!
Are you bad? Trainees or wannabees may be considered. G.W. masc., seeks G.M. masc. submissive. ☎ 71823

"Fuck Me Deep N Hard"
Hot n horny Asian ISO horny top guys for fun and more on a regular basis. Let's play and do it right. ☎ 71824

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Undercover agent

by Jim Nawrocki

The City of Your Final Destination
by Peter Cameron; Farrar,
Straus, Giroux, \$24

Consider this plot outline: A young American graduate student journeys to a Latin American country to visit the reclusive family of a dead writer, in an attempt to get their authorization for a biography of the author. On the surface, it doesn't sound like it has the makings of an interesting, much less suspenseful story. But this is essentially all that happens in Peter Cameron's latest novel, *The City of Your Final Destination*, and in Cameron's hands the story is indeed quite gripping. One could even call it a page-turner.

In Cameron's last novel, *Andorra* (1997), an American man travels to the tiny European country of the book's title to recover from the tragic deaths of his wife and young daughter. The novel is a skillful blend of murder mystery and psychological thriller, as well as a great example of the "unreliable narrator" technique. Although *The City of Your Final Destination* lacks a "great big secret" of the kind that lies at the heart of *Andorra*, this most recent novel is thematically and stylistically similar to its predecessor. Both novels tell the story of a troubled American's sojourn to a remote, exotic locale, and in both stories the trip is a catalyst for unexpected self-discovery.

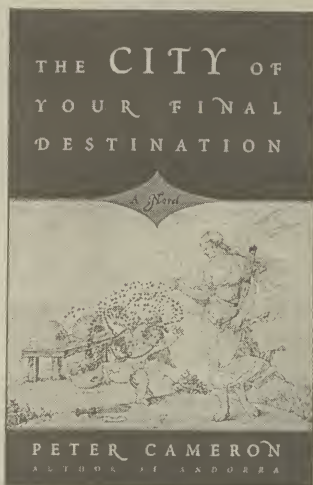
The troubled American in this latest Cameron novel is Omar Razaghi, a graduate student in literature at the University of Kansas. Razaghi receives a generous grant, and a guarantee of publication, for an authorized biography of Jules Gund, an enigmatic Latin American author whose equally enigmatic family (a sister, a brother and a wife) live on the secluded Gund estate in Uruguay. The only problem is that Razaghi does not in fact have authorization for the book. When he writes the family asking for permission and is denied, he decides to pay them a visit and plead his case in person.

Cameron deftly characterizes Omar as the quintessential absent-minded professor-to-be. There's a scene involving a lost dog and some quicksand that is nothing short of slapstick. The clumsy scholar is also known to have accidentally burned down a previous residence. But Omar's bumbblings seem to belie a deeper personal conflict. His somewhat domineering girlfriend reminds Omar that she "doesn't really believe in accidents." Sensing that he needs direction in his life, she encourages him to travel to Uruguay and write the book. Omar undertakes the quest as much out of a need for personal redemption as for career advancement.

Circle game

Here, as they say, the plot thickens. Omar manages to make

it to Uruguay and find the Gunds. He is soon drawn into their small, weird circle. They are a strange bunch. Gund's widow Caroline is an icy, reclusive painter who has given up any hope of having her own talent and paints only copies of other artists' masterpieces. Her bitterness is no doubt fueled by the fact that Gund's mistress, the beautiful Arden, also lives in the house, along with her young daughter Portia. Jules' brother Adam, sardonic antagonist to his



sister and sister-in-law, lives with his young lover Peter at a mill-house near the estate. Jules Gund, subject of the biography in question, remains throughout the book a tangential figure, and we learn little about him except what bits we can glean from the conversations of his siblings and his wife.

Because the Gund house is so remote, Omar is asked to stay the night. His appeal for authorization to write the book is met at first with resistance, but Omar's tenacity soon provokes divisions within the family. For this and various other reasons, Omar's stay becomes prolonged. He soon becomes increasingly involved with and attached to the family, and they to him.

Cameron's publicist's have labeled his fascination with Americans abroad as Jamesian, and the comparison to the great American writer is apt, but in style and tone Cameron seems even closer to Kafka. His clean, tight prose and silently menacing locales seem as evocative of Kafka's paranoid Prague as they do of James' refined estates and drawing rooms. There are police interrogation scenes in *Andorra* that seem inspired by Kafka's *The Trial*; the characters say very little to each other, but there's a powerful undercurrent of tension, expectation and dread with every word. Similarly, in *The City of Your Final Destination*, there are times when the characters' dialog seems absurdist in its simplicity. But these exchanges help unlock the mysteries of each character. All of Omar's questions about who Jules Gund was seem to prompt similar questions about who the surviving Gunds are, and, ultimately, about who Omar is. *The City of Your Final Destination* is about journeys of self-discovery. It is a well-controlled, understated and engaging novel. ▼

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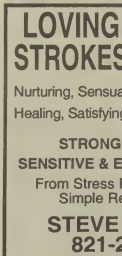


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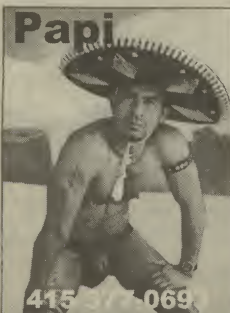


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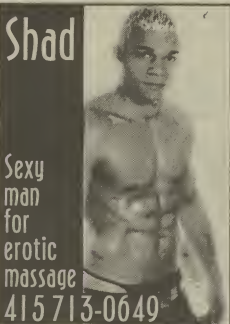
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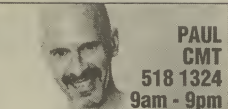
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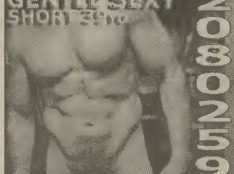
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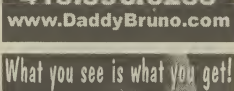
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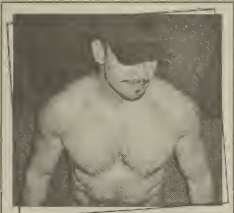
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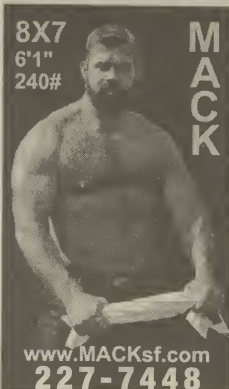
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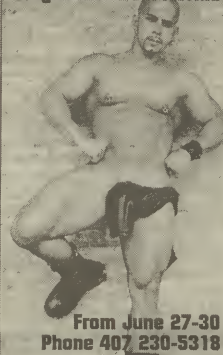
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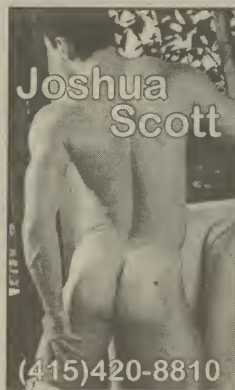
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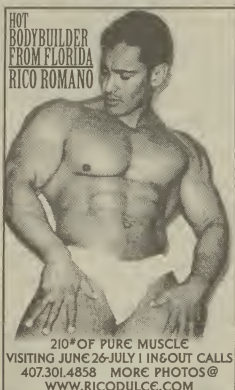
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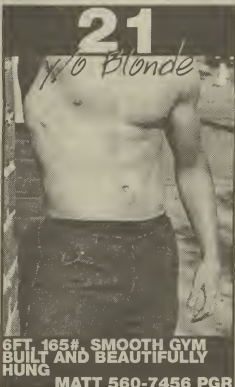
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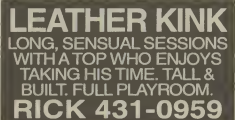
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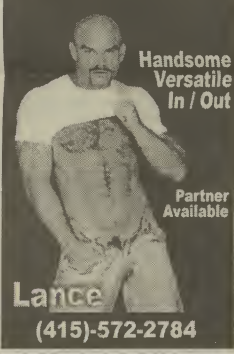


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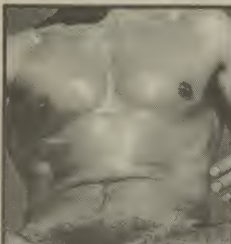
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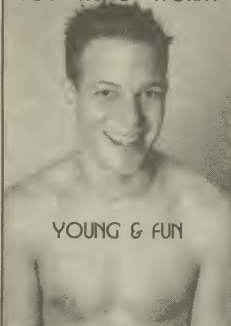
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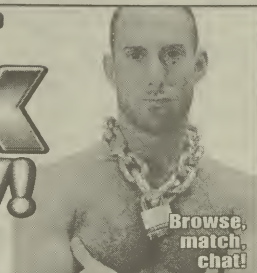
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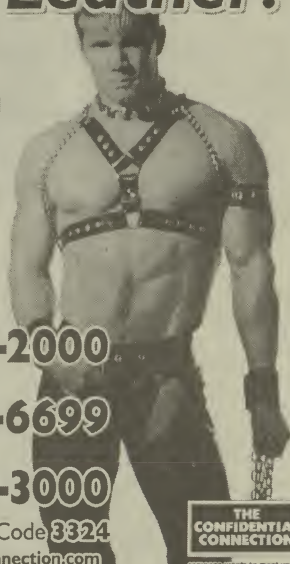
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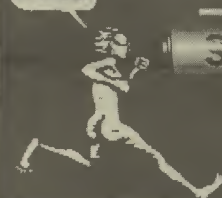
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